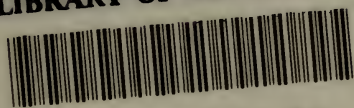


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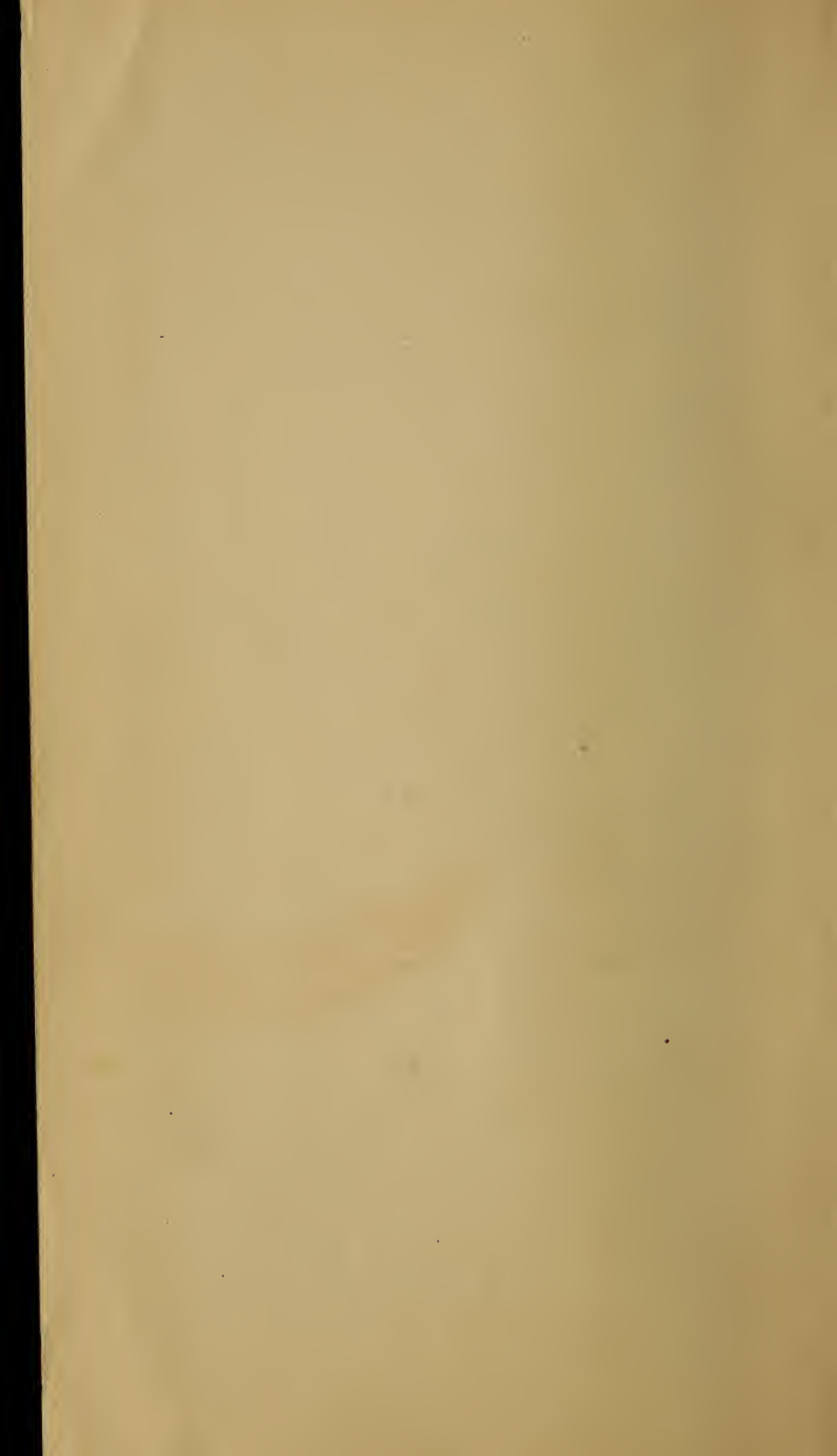


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SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE

HOUSE OF RUSSELL

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THE writer of the following pages was induced, some months ago, by circumstances purely accidental, to commence the publication of a series of articles, in the local paper with which he is connected, under the title of "Notes on the Nobility." These, it would seem, have been perused by a numerous class of readers, with some degree of interest. He has consequently been pressed by applications from various quarters, to republish them in a separate and more convenient form. He is so far willing to comply with the request, as to venture upon issuing the following Sketch of the History of the House of Russell, in its present shape. Should the experiment prove successful, he may probably repeat it, at a future time, with others of the series. Should it be otherwise, he may be allowed to express a hope that his present obtrusion on the world of letters, will, by a generous public, be forgiven, or—forgotten.

*Chronicle Office, Liverpool,*  
1st February, 1848.



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# SKETCH OF THE HISTORY

## OF THE

# HOUSE OF RUSSELL.

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THE house of Russell has long held a distinguished rank among the nobility of this country. The name is derived from one of the fiefs which the first chieftain of that surname possessed, anterior to the conquest of England, in Lower Normandy. The chateau of Rozel stands on a cape, fronting the sea, and the name, according to Roquefort, implies a tower, or bold headland, by the water; from *Roz*, the rook or castle of the chessboard, and *el*, the synonyme for *eau*. The family of the Du Rozels were known by that surname prior to 1066. The immediate foundation, however, of their wealth and honours was laid in the reign of Henry VIII.; but they were lords of the manor of Kingston Russell, in the county of Dorset, early in the thirteenth century. John Russell of that manor, which was held by grand serjeantry that “they should present a cup of beer unto our sovereign lord the king on the four principal feasts of the year,” was constable of Corfe Castle in 1221. His son, Sir Ralph, married a daughter of Lord de Newmarch and Derham, descended from Bernard de Newmarch, one of the followers of the Conqueror into England. He had livery of the lands acquired by his marriage. His son, Sir William, had a charter for a fair at Kingston Russell, and

was knight of the shire for the county of Southampton in 1307. Several generations afterwards, Sir John Russell, the head of the family, was Speaker of the House of Commons, in the reign of Henry VI., 1423-1431. His son, James, by his first wife, Alice, daughter of John Wyse, Esq., was father of

JOHN, FIRST EARL OF BEDFORD.

This distinguished nobleman owed his introduction to the court of Henry VII. to a mere accident. Philip, Archduke of Austria, having married the heiress of Castile, and being shipwrecked in January, 1505, at Weymouth, whither he was driven by a great storm, (Stow says of eleven days,) on his passage from Flanders to Spain, was hospitably entertained by Sir Thomas Trenchard, one of the chief persons of that part of Dorsetshire, till Henry had received the news of his arrival, and invited him to court. It chanced that Sir Thomas sent for his cousin, Mr. Russell, then lately returned from his travels, with great fame for his skill in foreign languages, to wait on the royal stranger, who was so much pleased by the conversation of his visitor that he took him in his company to Windsor, and recommended him strongly to Henry, who immediately received him into high favour, and appointed him a gentleman of the privy chamber. Henry VIII., who succeeded to the throne about four years after this event, received him with increased favour. They were about the same age, and Russell possessed most of the qualities which usually attracted that prince's favourable notice—a sedate and clear understanding, a courageous heart, and a learned education, finished and polished by foreign travel. In 1513 he accompanied the king to France, where, during the siege of Therouenne, Russell, with 250 men, recovered

a piece of ordnance from 10,000 French, under one of their ablest generals ; and so quickly did he cut off a large supply of provisions the enemy had sent towards the town, that Henry, when he returned from that service, believed he had not then set out. "While we are fooling," cried Henry, "the town is relieved." "So it is indeed," answered Russell, "for I have sent them 2000 carcasses, and they have spared me 1200 waggons of provisions." "Ay, but," said the king, "I sent after you to cut off the bridge Dreban." "That," replied Russell, "was the first thing I did ; wherefore I am upon my knees for your majesty's grace and pardon." "Nay, then," concluded the king, "by'r lady thou hast not my pardon only, but my favour too." In 1518, he was commissioned to restore Tournay to the French, at the siege of which he had distinguished himself ; in 1522 he was knighted by Lord Surrey, at Morlaix ; in 1525, was at the battle of Pavia ; attended Henry at his interview with Francis in 1532 ; and on the 29th March, 1538, was created Baron Russell of Chenies, an estate acquired by marriage. In 1540, on the dissolution of the greater monasteries, he became enriched beyond all precedent by grants from their spoil, particularly in Devonshire, where he obtained, together with the borough and town of Tavistock, the entire demesne of its very rich abbey, comprising nearly thirty manors, with many large estates in other parts of the county, as well as in those of Bucks and Somerset. In 1541 he was constituted Lord Admiral of England and Ireland, and at the attack of Boulogne by Henry in person he commanded the vanguard. The king, who died in the succeeding year, appointed him one of the sixteen executors to his will, who formed a council of regency for the administration of affairs during the mi-

nority of Edward VI. At the coronation of that prince he was Lord High Steward, and soon after received from the crown a grant of the great estates of the dissolved monastery of Woburn, in Bedfordshire, which has since become the chief residence of his successors. A formidable insurrection in the western counties, in 1549, against the measures of the Reformation, called him again into military service. The insurgents, who formed a regular army of 10,000 men, demanded that the mass should be restored, half of the abbey lands resumed, the law of the six articles executed, holy water and holy bread respected, and all other grievances redressed. Lord Russell had been sent against them with a small force; but being too weak to encounter them in the field, he began to negotiate. Finding their demands eluded, they marched to Exeter, carrying before them crosses, banners, holy water, candlesticks, and other implements of ancient superstition, together with the host, which they covered with a canopy. The citizens of Exeter shut their gates; and the rebels, as they had no cannon, endeavoured to take the place, first by scalade, then by mining; but were repulsed in every attempt. Russell, meanwhile, being reinforced with some German horse and Italian arquebusiers, attacked the rebels, drove them from all their posts, did great execution on them both in the action and pursuit, and took many prisoners. Humphrey Arundel, governor of St. Michael's Mount, and the other leaders, were sent to London, tried and executed; many of the inferior sort were put to death by martial law; and the vicar of St. Thomas, one of the principal incendiaries, was hanged on the top of his own steeple, arrayed in his popish weeds, with his beads at his girdle. A very lengthened and particular account of this affair is given in Hollinshed's chronicle. It was an



eminent public service, and Russell was rewarded accordingly, for on 19th January, 1550, he was created Earl of Bedford. During the violence of the struggle between Dudley and the protector Somerset, he was fortunately in France negotiating a peace. He did not long survive the accession of Queen Mary. His last public service was an embassy to Philip of Spain (grandson of the archduke who had recommended him to Henry VII.,) whom he escorted in 1554 from Corunna to London, and introduced to that princess as a bridegroom. He died at his house in the Strand, on the 14th March, 1555, and was buried at Chenies, leaving by his countess Anne, daughter and sole heir to Sir Guy Sapcote, and widow of Sir Thomas Broughton of Tudrington, in Bedfordshire, an only child, Francis, his worthy and magnificent successor.—History affords us little on which to found a judgment of the earl's character. The celebrated Edmund Burke levelled a general censure at his memory to avenge an offence offered by his heir nearly three centuries after his death. Referring to the grant of the manor of Agmondesham, in Bucks, which was part of the estate of the attainted Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, Mr. Burke characterized it as a gift "from the recent confiscations of the ancient nobility of the land." "The lion," he adds, alluding to Henry VIII., "having sucked the blood of his prey, threw the offal carcass to the jackall in waiting; having once tasted the blood of confiscation, the favourites become fierce and ravenous." "This worthy favourite's first grant was from the lay nobility; the second, infinitely improving upon the enormity of the first, was from the plunder of the church." If history could have furnished a single accusation against the Earl of Bedford, Burke's memorable philippic would certainly

*Henry VIII.*

have recorded it ; but it charges him only with having received great rewards, and barely insinuates that he might not have deserved them. There is a splendid portrait of the earl, by Holbein, in the collection of the Duke of Bedford. He is a venerable old man, with lofty features and a flowing beard.

FRANCIS, SECOND EARL OF BEDFORD.

Francis, second Earl of Bedford, was in his 27th year when he succeeded to the earldom. He had previously been knight of the shire for Northumberland, forming the first precedent in our history of a peer's eldest son being returned in that capacity. He married early in life, Margaret, widow of Sir John Gostwick, and daughter of Sir John St. John, of Bletso. By this lady he had four sons, Edward, John, Francis, and William, and three daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, and Margaret. The earl supported Queen Mary on her accession, and was eminently serviceable at the siege of St. Quintin. His attachment to the Reformation subjected him to the persecution of Bonner and Gardiner, being thrown into prison for his religious opinions. He escaped, however, from their fangs, and retired to Geneva. On the accession of Elizabeth he was called to her Privy Council ; and the countess was one of her ladies of honour until her death, in 1561. In 1564, he was appointed governor of Berwick, and shortly after, a commissioner to negotiate the proposed marriage between Mary, Queen of Scots, and Lord Robert Dudley, on that occasion created Earl of Leicester, a project which was defeated by Mary's marriage with Darnley. In 1565, the marriage of the earl's eldest daughter Anne was celebrated with Leicester's brother, Ambrose Dudley, afterwards Earl of Warwick. The queen took a lively interest in the nup-

tials, and graced with her presence the tournaments held in their celebration. An interesting account of the ceremony and of the feats of arms that followed, has been preserved, but is too long for quotation. In 1566 it became the duty of the Earl of Bedford, as the queen's representative in the north, to report to her council the circumstances attending the murder of Rizzio ; and his account contains many interesting particulars of that revolting catastrophe. In September of this year, the earl married for his second wife, Bridget, daughter of John, Lord Hussey, and widow both of Sir Richard Morrison, the able negotiator, and of Henry Manners, Earl of Rutland. On the 19th June, the Queen of Scots gave birth to her infant son, afterwards James I., in the castle of Edinburgh, and his baptism took place at Stirling on the 17th December, with great parade and magnificence. Mary had, at the very first, requested Queen Elizabeth to stand as sponsor or "gossip;" and she had at the same time taken care to invite ambassadors from all the friendly powers abroad to be present at the ceremony. Before the appointed day, the Earl of Bedford arrived, with a retinue of eighty gentlemen on horseback, as ambassador from Elizabeth, bringing with him a font of gold to be employed in the ceremony, as a present from his mistress to Queen Mary. The Earls of Murray and Bothwell, and Secretary Maitland, came forward two miles out of Stirling on the 14th, with one hundred horse, to do him honour, and brought him to the castle, and so to the presence of the queen immediately, before he had arrayed himself, "or even plucked off his boots." Mary, as he entered the presence chamber, was sitting by a bedside, attended by Huntley, Argyle, and many other earls and lords. "She saluted," says the chronicler of the day, "my lord of Bed-



ford with a kiss, whether he would or no ; and, after a little talk had with him, embraced all the gents ; after which we passed into the great chamber, where he had a banquet of sweetmeat, and so went from the castle." On the 15th, being Sunday, they attended service in the parish church, and after dinner, about two or three o'clock, Bedford and his attendants were sent for by the queen, and " had a long talk with her, which being ended, the queen went into the nursery to see her bairn, which was brought openly in the presence for every man to see, by the Countess of Murray, governess to the prince ; and my lord going away, was sent for again to the queen in the nursery, to see the young prince naked, and lawful for every gentleman to see." After supper they went again to the court, " where they saw the queen dance and her ladies, and so did diverse Scottish gentlemen, and Mr. Carey and Mr. Hatton," (afterwards Sir Christopher.) At this interview the earl delivered his credentials, and informed the Scottish Queen that his mistress had appointed the Countess of Argyle to act as her proxy at the christening. On the following day, after supper, the earl delivered Elizabeth's present to the queen. It was a font of pure and massive gold, which weighed, according to Stowe, 333 ounces, and was valued at £1043 19s.; while a more homely Scottish chronicler of the day has recorded that it was " twa stane wecht." Large as it was, however, Elizabeth entertained apprehensions that it would be too small to contain the person of the infant prince ; and she had given Bedford instructions, among graver matters, " to say, pleasantly, that it was made as soon as she heard of the prince's birth, and then 'twas big enough for him ; but now he, being grown, is too big for it ; therefore it may be better used for the *next child*,



provided it be christened before it outgrows the font." On the 17th the important ceremony was performed. The prince in the first place was borne out of his chamber to the adjacent royal chapel by the French ambassador, the Countess of Argyle, &c. After them proceeded the Earl of Athol, bearing "ane gret serge of war," the Earl of Eglintoune bearing the "salt-fat," Lord Sempill bearing "the cude," and Lord Ross bearing "the basin and ewer," which were to be employed in the ceremony. A multitude of nobles and gentlemen followed, each bearing in his hand a "large pricket of wax;" the time requiring such illumination, as it was at five in the afternoon that the solemnity commenced. The ceremony was performed by John Hamilton, archbishop of St. Andrew's, a prelate whose fate it was, only five years after, to be hanged upon the neighbouring bridge over the Forth, a victim to the fierce party spirit which then tore the bowels of the nation. On the present occasion, in splendid unconsciousness of his fate, he appeared in full pontificals, staff, mitre, and crozier, and was assisted by the bishops of Dunkeld, Dunblane, and Ross, with a multitude of humbler officials. He performed the whole of the ceremonies, in conformity to the custom of the Romish church, except "the spittle," which was omitted at the request of the queen.\* After the solemnity, the child's name and titles were thrice proclaimed by the heralds under sound of trumpet. The whole was concluded with singing and playing of organs. This done, they passed to the great hall to supper, whereat sat the queen's grace, the English ambassador being placed at her right hand, and attended by the Earl of Eglintoune as his carver, the Earl of Rothes as cupper, and the Earl

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\* See Appendix, Note A.

of Crawford, sewer. The supper was followed by "gret dancing and playing." Two days after the baptism, the queen entertained her court and foreign guests at a grand banquet, which was preceded by an exhibition of fireworks in Stirling churchyard. During the banquet an amusing quarrel arose between the French and English. It so happened that the amusements of the evening were chiefly conducted by the queen's French servant, de Bastian—a name disagreeably memorable in her history, as it was on his marriage night that Darnley was murdered. According to the grotesque taste of that age, the table containing the meat was moved into the hall by concealed machinery, preceded by a number of men dressed like satyrs, and accompanied by "musicians, clothed like maids, and playing on all sorts of instruments." The business of the satyrs was to make way for the advancing table through the guests assembled in the hall. It pleased them, however, to perform an extra-official duty, by seizing their tails behind, and wagging them in the faces of the crowd. "The long-tailed English" was an epithet of contempt applicable to that nation from the days of King David II., when we know it was applied to a party of them by Black Agnes, at the siege of Dunbar. Of course, it was natural for them, on the present occasion, to conceive that the ludicrous gesture of the satyrs was a studied insult devised against them by the French master of ceremonies; and, under this impression, the greater part of them were foolish enough to express their resentment by sitting down upon the floor behind the table, with their backs turned to the festive scene. Mr. Hatton, one of the principal men among them, even went the length of telling Sir James Melville, that, but for the queen's presence, he would have "put his dagger

into the heart of that knave de Bastian." Mary, who was sitting at the time in conversation with the Earl of Bedford, turned about on hearing the tumult, but it cost both her and the earl a good deal of pains to reassure the English, and compose the mighty quarrel which distracted the assemblage. Besides attending the ceremony of the christening, the Earl of Bedford had conferences with Queen Mary of great delicacy respecting her claim of succession to the English crown. He conducted himself on this occasion with no less honesty towards that queen, than loyalty to his own, and returned, loaded with the presents and the thanks of Scotland, to the unimpaired favours of a sovereign equally discerning and jealous. From this period the Earl of Bedford's services were principally rendered at the council-table. In 1570 he was honoured with a visit from the queen at Chenies, where she remained with her court for several days. In 1572, accompanied by the principal officers of her court and household, she again visited the earl, at his seat of Woburn Abbey. The hospitality which the earl exercised was such as to have passed into a proverb; the queen herself being accustomed to declare, that "whilst some noblemen made many poor by oppression, he and Edward Earl of Derby made by their liberality all the beggars in her kingdom;" yet we find the Earl of Bedford, upon this occasion making suit to Lord Burleigh to manage for him "that her tarriance were not above two nights and a day;" so burdensome even to the most generous and noble was the entertainment of that numerous train which attended in the wake of this state-keeping princess when she made one of her progresses.—The earl was employed in the matrimonial negotiation with the Duke of Anjou in 1581. His health and constitution



now gradually declined, until July, 1585, when his various maladies terminated in a gangrene, which he bore with Christian patience and resignation. In this peaceful frame of mind he is stated like a taper to have worn away, and without a gasp or groan to have yielded up his spirit on the 28th July, 1585.—His two eldest sons had died in his lifetime. The third, Francis, Lord Russell, married Juliana, daughter of Sir John Foster, warden of the marches, and was killed in an accidental fray on the borders of Scotland only *one day* before the death of his father, leaving issue, Edward, third earl.—The Countess of Bedford survived her husband many years. At the funeral of Mary Queen of Scots she officiated as chief mourner; and died in 1600, at the age of 75.

The character of Francis, Earl of Bedford, is thus drawn by Mr. Lodge :—"He loved his country entirely, and devoted himself to it on the only just principles of public service—loyalty to his prince, reverence to religion, and submission to the laws. He had talents capable of directing the most important state affairs; but those talents were in a manner governed by a noble simplicity of mind, so contrary to the spirit of party and political intrigue, that he always declined accepting the great offices which were repeatedly offered to him, choosing to serve his prince rather with his person than with his counsel, and preferring obedience, regulated by his own honesty, to that affectation of authority which must occasionally submit to the interests and the caprice of colleagues. The vast wealth which he inherited in his youth from his father seduced him neither into indolence, debauchery, nor pride. His charity was as pure as his patriotism, and as free from vanity as that from ambition. He seemed to hold his weighty purse but as a

trustee for the unfortunate. To conclude this slight sketch, in the concise but comprehensive words of Camden, 'he was a true follower of religion and virtue!'"

FAMILY OF FRANCIS, SECOND EARL OF BEDFORD.

The earl had four sons—Edward, John, Francis, and William ; and three daughters—Anne, Elizabeth, and Margaret. We shall notice each of them *seriatim*.

I.—EDWARD.

Of Edward, Lord Russell, the earl's eldest son, but few particulars are known. He married Jane Sibylla, daughter of Sir Richard Morrison. Lord Russell died, without issue, in the lifetime of his father, and his young widow married Arthur, Baron Grey of Wilton, a brave and honourable captain, who, after distinguishing his youth in the Scottish wars, served as Lord Deputy of Ireland, where he suppressed the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond.

II.—JOHN.

John, second son, by writ of parliament Baron Russell, married 1574, the Lady Hobby, one of the five learned daughters of Sir Anthony Cooke. Her first husband was Sir Thomas Hobby, who died while on an embassy to France in 1566. On that occasion she was honoured with a letter of the kindest condolence from Queen Elizabeth. On the birth of her first daughter by Lord Russell, the Queen stood godmother to the infant, which was named after her, Elizabeth. In after years, she appointed her (as well as her younger sister Anne) one of her maids of honour.\* They had also a son named Francis, who died in 1580 ; his father survived him but a few years, dying at his house in Highgate in 1584, the year before his father the earl.

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\* See Appendix, Note B.

## III.—FRANCIS.

Sir Francis was a youth of high spirit and undaunted prowess. His father's office on the Scottish borders drew him thither, and he was received into one of the companies of Sir John Forster, of Alnwick Abbey, warden of the middle marches, whose daughter Juliana he married in 1571. Into the stirring charms of a border life he entered with unusual ardour. In the many border conflicts in which he was engaged, he uniformly displayed a bravery and contempt of danger which endeared him to the marchmen under his command. He took a conspicuous share in the escalade of Edinburgh Castle, and was committed to ward by Sir William Drury, his commander, for his rash and precipitate valour. The castle, which was commanded by the brave Kirkaldy, of Grange, yielded next day, and its gallant defender was infamously put to death in open defiance of the terms of capitulation. In 1575, Forster, Sir Francis, and numerous other gentlemen were taken prisoners by the Scots, on a sudden fray which arose while the wardens of the two countries, with their retainers, were met to hold a day of truce for the redress of mutual grievances. Sir George Heron, with five-and-twenty of the English, perished in this fatal raid, which is imputed to treachery on the part of the Scots. Russell and his fellow-prisoners were, however, speedily liberated, with ample apologies from the Regent Morton to the English Queen. On the 27th July, 1585, another truce-day was held between Sir John Forster and Sir Thomas Ker of Fernihurst, when the oaths to keep the peace were again violated, and the English, to the number of three hundred gentlemen, were attacked by no less than three thousand Scots. An Englishman being charged with theft, on



doubtful evidence, a tumult was suddenly raised, and the Scots immediately discharged a shower of bullets, one of which wounded Sir Francis Russell, as he was unsheathing his sword, after exclaiming to a Scot who had called on him to surrender, "that will I never do!" The English were put to flight, pursued for four miles on English ground, and several taken prisoners. The wound which Sir Francis had received proved fatal; he lingered till the following day, and then expired, to the grief of all Northumberland, and the extreme indignation of the English Queen. Of those who mourned his loss, as the spearmen bore his body home to Alnwick, his lady, Juliana Forster, was happily not one; "her sweet deserts," to use the phrase of a contemporary poet who celebrates his fate, had already passed from earth; but the tears of her father and his own retainers were shed upon his bier; and the church of Alnwick hearses his remains. This unhappy occurrence took place, as already mentioned, on the day before the death of his father the earl; and Edward, the son of Sir Francis, succeeded to the title as third Earl of Bedford.

#### IV.—WILLIAM.

Sir William, the fourth son, greatly distinguished himself in his youth, both in military service, and its mimic presentments the tilt and tourney. After assisting in the suppression of a rebellion in Ireland, at the head of one hundred and fifty horse raised by the English clergy, he was sent to Holland with Sir Philip Sidney, under the Earl of Leicester; and on the celebrated field of Zutphen, in 1586, displayed a valour that carried consternation, rout, and havoc, wherever his horse bore him. Naturally tall, sinewy, and athletic, his figure, magnified by the mists that prevailed upon that noted morning, seemed like a gigantic

image, and, joined to the romantic achievements of his arm, impressed the superstitious fancies of the Spaniards with the belief that they were contending with a more than earthly apparition. "So terribly he charged," says Stowe, who derived the scene from an eye witness, "that, after he had broke his lance, he with his curtle-axe so played his part, that the enemy reported him a devil, and no man ; for, where he saw six or seven of the foe together, thither would he rush, and so apply his weapon as speedily to separate their friendship." A like display of prowess by Lord Willoughby, Sir Philip Sidney, and others of the English soldiery, completed the fortune of the day, and the Spaniards fled from the disastrous conflict. The exultation of Sir William, as he returned from the pursuit, was severely checked by a rumour of the fatal accident that had befallen Sidney. Hastening to the spot where the young hero lay, Sir William kissed his hand, and exclaimed with bitter tears, "O ! noble Sir Philip ! never was there man obtained hurt more honourably than ye have done, nor any served like unto you !" To him, as his dear friend and comrade, the dying youth bequeathed his best gilt armour ; and Sir William was appointed by the queen to the governorship of Flushing, vacant by his lamented death. On the invasion of the Spanish armada, Sir William commanded the forces of the west, but the dispersion of the fleet left this office a sinecure. In 1593, he was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland, where his military services were called forth into full exertion. He returned in triumph in 1597. In 1603, he was created to the peerage by King James, as Baron Russell of Thornhaugh ; and died 9th August, 1613; the Christian preparations which he made for his last serious conflict being more instructive than many homilies,



and more glorious to his memory than the previous recital of his earthly victories and battles. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Henry Long, of Stringay, Cambridgeshire, who died two years before him. They left a son, Francis, who afterwards succeeded as fourth Earl of Bedford.

V.—ANNE, COUNTESS OF WARWICK.

Anne, the eldest daughter, was married in 1565, as already mentioned, to Ambrose Dudley, fourth, but at length eldest surviving son and heir of the Duke of Northumberland; brother of Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Leicester, and of Guildford, husband of Lady Jane Grey. She was his third wife, he having been already twice a widower. While yet young, he had been naturally associated with his father in the exaltation of Lady Jane, and had in consequence been attainted and received sentence of death. After a short imprisonment in the Tower, however, Mary granted him a pardon for life, and received him into favour. He distinguished himself in 1557, at the celebrated battle of St. Quintin; and before the accession of Elizabeth, obtained by act of parliament the restitution of his estates. He received from Elizabeth a grant of lands in Leicestershire, and was made master of the ordnance, baron of Kingston-Lisle, and Earl of Warwick. Being appointed governor of Havre, with a garrison of three thousand men, he defended his post, which was besieged by the Constable Montmorenci, with unshrinking resolution, nor did he render it at last but at Elizabeth's special order, and on the most honourable conditions. During the treaty, having appeared without his armour on the ramparts to speak to a distinguished French officer, a villain fired at him from beneath, and wounded him in the leg with a poisoned bul-

let, a misfortune which troubled him during the remainder of his life. It was during this siege that the queen addressed to him that affectionate laconic note, in which she protests, that for the presence of so faithful a servant she would willingly part with her most needful finger, and would rather drink out of an ashen cup than that he should fail of succour. He was among the peers appointed for the trial of the Duke of Norfolk and Mary Queen of Scots. He was a nobleman of unblemished character, and was popularly known as the "good Earl of Warwick." Towards the conclusion of his life the misery of the incurable wound in his leg gradually increased, and at length became intolerable and threatened mortification. He was in consequence obliged to submit to amputation of the injured limb. He died in 1590, being about sixty years of age. Lady Warwick was distinguished by the highest accomplishments, and was the closest female intimate of Queen Elizabeth to the hour of her death. She survived her royal mistress but a twelvemonth, expiring 9th February, 1604, to the regret of numbers to whom her virtues and good offices had long endeared her. Her body was embalmed, and deposited in the vault of the church at Chenies, where she frequently resided, and where her memory is yet held in veneration, as she devised an annual endowment for the maintenance of ten poor widows there. She was remarkable alike for unfeigned piety and extensive benevolence.

#### VI.—ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF BATH.

Elizabeth, second daughter, was married in 1582, at St. Stephen's Church, Exeter, of which city she was a native, to William Bouchier, Earl of Bath: the citizens testifying their interest in the event by the present of a basin and

ewer of silver, richly gilt and decorated. A large cavalcade was also in attendance to escort them from the altar; and the rest of the day was devoted to a round of entertainments and public diversions, which gave to that ancient and venerable city the gaiety and life of an Italian carnival. We find little else recorded of Lady Bath beyond some incidental allusions in the writings of her niece, Anne Clifford.

VII.—MARGARET, COUNTESS OF CUMBERLAND.

Margaret, the youngest daughter, was married to George Clifford, son of the Earl of Cumberland. The match was suggested by Leicester, and approved by the parents of both, when the parties themselves were yet in infancy; the young Lord Clifford being but seven years old and Lady Margaret two years younger, when they were betrothed to each other. Of the early life and character of this lady, some particulars occur in the memoirs of her daughter, Anne Clifford, Countess of Pembroke:—"The blessed and religious lady, Margaret Russell, was born about the 6th July, 1560, in her father's house at Exeter, which house was once a nunnery; and by reason that her mother, Margaret, Countess of Bedford, died of the small-pox, in Woburn House, when she was but a year old; she, the then little lady, Margaret Russell, was by her father sent to her mother's sister, Mrs. Alice Elmers, of Lilford, in Northamptonshire, to be bred up there some seven years; and from there, when about eight years old, she was brought home, to live in her father's house, under the government of her mother-in-law, till she came to be married. She was married to George Clifford, third Earl of Cumberland, the 24th June, in 1577, in St. Mary Overy's Church, in Southwark, she being then near seventeen years old, and he near nineteen; his sister, the Lady Frances Clifford, being



married to Philip, Lord Wharton, at the same time and place : it being so great a marriage that Queen Elizabeth honoured it with her presence. A little after her marriage she went with her husband down into the north, to Skipton Castle, in Craven, to live there with him, and his mother and their friends, for the most part of eight years. This Margaret Russell was endowed with many perfections of mind and body. She was naturally of a high spirit, though she tempered it well by grace ; having a very well-favoured face, with sweet and quick grey eyes, and of a comely personage. She was of a graceful behaviour, which she increased the more by her being civil and courteous to all ranks of people. She had a discerning spirit, both into the disposition of human creatures and natural causes, and into the affairs of the world. She had a great, sharp, natural wit, so as there were few worthy sciences but she had some insight into them ; for though she had no language but her own, yet were there few books of worth translated into English but she read them ; whereby that excellent mind of hers was much enriched, which even by nature was endowed with the seeds of the four moral virtues—prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. She was a lover of the study and practice of alchemy (chemistry) by which she found out excellent medicines, that did much good to many. She delighted in distilling of waters and other chemical extractions, for she had some knowledge in most kind of minerals, herbs, flowers, and plants. And certainly the infusion which she had from above, of many excellent knowledges and virtues, both divine and human, did bridle and keep under that great spirit of hers, and caused her to have the sweet peace of the heavenly and quiet mind in the midst of all her griefs and troubles, which were many. She

was dearly beloved by those of her friends and acquaintance that had excellent wits, and were worthy and good ; so as towards her latter end she would often say that the kindness of her friends towards her had been one of the most comfortable parts of her life, and particularly of her husband's two sisters. She was also very happy in the dear love and affection of her eldest and excellent sister, Anne Russell, Countess of Warwick, (who being almost thirteen years older than herself, was a kind of a mother to her,) as well as in that of their middle sister, Countess of Bath ; for these three sisters in those times were the most remarkable ladies for their greatness and goodness of any three sisters in the kingdom."

George Clifford was the eldest son of Henry, second Earl of Cumberland. His father dying in 1569, when he was only eleven years of age, he was placed in ward to Francis, second Earl of Bedford. He had all that susceptibility of imagination and ardent enthusiasm which leads to brilliant and romantic undertakings ; and he embarked, heart and soul, in those maritime attacks upon the power of Spain, which under Drake and others were then the rage of the day. He had fitted out a little fleet so early as 1586, on a voyage of discovery and crusade against the Spaniards ; commanded in 1588 a ship in the fleet which destroyed the Spanish armada, and distinguished himself equally by his bravery and his skill in the various engagements by which that great work was accomplished, particularly in the last action which was fought off Calais. He afterwards engaged with a second fleet of his own furnishing, in a series of sea voyages that have justly placed his name among the first patrons of enterprise in the annals of maritime adventure. Sailing, in June, 1589, for the West Indies, he took the

rich town of Fayal, in the Azores, with all its stores and ordnance ; and, after several desperate engagements and severe privations, returned in December, seamed with scars, but rich with booty, having sent home before him no fewer than eight-and-twenty ships, with spoil to the amount of more than £20,000. Shortly after his return he went down to Skipton Castle, on a visit to his lady. Time had passed but rudely with his amiable countess almost from the period of their marriage ; for the earl unhappily became fascinated with the charms of some other lady about court, which was followed by the usual results of irregular attachment—first neglect, afterwards estrangement, and to the injured party deep inward discontent, if not open indignation and reproach. To a woman of the countess's quick sense of moral feeling, the guilty conduct of a husband to whom she was undoubtedly attached, infinitely enhanced the pain which she suffered from his infidelity ; and her health became so much impaired that at the end of six years she was threatened with consumption. Her emaciated form and mental suffering touched the bosom of the careless earl, and a renewal of his first assiduities arrested the ravage of disease, and restored to her the animation and the hue of health. In this interval of restored confidence, which comprised about ten years of her existence, the countess became the mother of two sons, who both died precisely at the same age of five years and eight months ; and of a daughter, Anne, Countess of Dorset, Pembroke and Montgomery, who afterwards became noted as the dauntless claimant of her alienated rights, but affable, generous, and hospitable in the halls of her progenitors, and mistress of all hearts in the districts gladdened by her bounty.

The simple enjoyments and quiet of a country life were



but little in unison with the Earl of Cumberland's restless and romantic spirit. Being bent upon fresh sea adventures, he in April, 1591, took his family to London, and set sail, in May, for the Mediterranean. Being disappointed, by the death of his sons, in his hopes of perpetuating the name of Clifford, he grew less scrupulous in the indulgence of his favourite pursuits. The building and fitting out of vessels for nine successive voyages, led to many large alienations of his property. Being also champion to the queen, he spent vast sums in maintaining his *beau-ideal* of that character in revels, tilts, and other festivities. The prizes which he took in his naval expeditions, though often of immense value, did not in the end compensate for the sacrifices which he had made. The queen claimed a great portion of the proceeds of his earlier captures ; and in his last expedition in 1598, when he took and burnt the capital of Porto Rico, he suffered many accidents and losses. The countess's friends obtained from him a settlement on her of his Westmoreland estates ; but he devised to his brother Francis all his other castles, lands, and honours, from his daughter, which were only to return to her in default of a male heir to his brother ; a disposal which led to long and expensive law-suits, and rekindled between him and his high-spirited lady the sparkles of their former discord. The bond of confidence was thus afresh snapt between them, and was reunited only in his last moments. That event took place in the Duchy-house of Savoy, on the 30th October, 1605. The countess and her daughter were attendant on him during his illness, which brought with it some serious and compunctious feelings for his past domestic errors. Before his decease he expressed with much affection to his wife and child a strong impression that his

brother would die without male issue, and his daughter thereby become the sole possessor of his lands—a presentiment which was realised in 1643. The earl, says Dr. Whitaker, “was a great, but unamiable man. His story admirably illustrates the difference between greatness and contentment, between fame and virtue. If we trace him in the public history of his times, we see nothing but the accomplished courtier, the skilful navigator, the intrepid commander, the disinterested patriot; but if we follow him into his family, we are instantly struck with the indifferent and unfaithful husband, the negligent and thoughtless parent.” He was buried at Skipton, the chief seat of his family.—The countess survived him upwards of ten years. Her interesting daughter gives this recital of her latter days:—“Upon the 2nd of April, 1616, I took my last leave of my dear and blessed mother, with many tears and much sorrow to us both, some quarter of a mile from Brougham Castle, in the open air,\* after which time she and I never saw one another: for then I went away out of Westmoreland to London. A little before her death, when she was in some doubt and fear that through strength of power her daughter’s ancient inheritance might be wrested from her, she would often say, to comfort her heart, ‘The earth is the Lord’s, and all that therein is.’ In the month following, that blessed mother of mine died, to my unspeakable grief, myself at the time of her death being in Kent; the remembrance of whose sweet and excellent virtues hath been the chief companion of my thoughts ever since she departed out of this world. She died, this blessed lady, christianly and willingly, the 24th day of May, in 1616, in the same chamber in Brougham Castle wherein

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\* See Appendix, Note C.



her husband was born, being about fifty-six years old. She often repeated these words a little before her death, 'that she desired to be dissolved, and to be with our Saviour Jesus Christ, in the heavenly Jerusalem.' "

ANNE CLIFFORD, COUNTESS OF DORSET, &c.

This distinguished lady was born 30th January, 1590. It was her good fortune, as we have seen, to be left to the care of her mother, by whom the more important part of her education was entrusted to Samuel Daniel, a poet of no mean fame in those days. From him she acquired a taste for history and poetry, and a fondness for literary composition, which she indulged to a great extent, but without the intention of publishing. Her chief work is a summary of the circumstances of her own life. Her picture of herself in her youth is too curious to be omitted. "I was," says she, "very happy in my first constitution, both in mind and body; both for internal and external endowments; for never was there a child more equally resembling both father and mother than myself. The colour of mine eyes was black, like my father's, and the form and aspect of them was quick and lively like my mother's. The hair of my head was brown, and very thick, and so long that it reached to the calf of my legs when I stood upright: with a peak of hair on my forehead, and a dimple on my chin. Like my father, full cheeks; and round face, like my mother; and an exquisite shape of body resembling my father. But now time and age have long since ended all those beauties, which are to be compared to the grass of the field. For now, when I caused these memorables of myself to be written, I have passed the sixty-third year of my age. And, though I say it, the perfections of my mind were much above those of my body: I had a strong and

copious memory; a sound judgment, and a discerning spirit; and so much of a strong imagination in me, as that many times even my dreams and apprehensions beforehand proved to be true; so that old Mr. John Denham, a great astronomer that sometimes lived in my father's house, would often say, that I had much in me in nature to shew that the sweet influences of the Pleiads and the bands of Orion, mentioned in Job, were powerful both at my conception and nativity!" She was married to Richard Sackville, son of the second Earl of Dorset, 27th Feb., 1609; and but two days after her marriage the father of her husband died, and she became Countess of Dorset. The earl was a man of lively parts, and licentious life, and probably a polite and negligent husband. After his death, and when she had passed the age of forty, she was married to Philip Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. In neither of her marriages did this lady find the happiness to which her deserts so eminently entitled her; being subjected in both "to many crosses and contradictions"—with her first lord from resisting his prodigal extravagance, and from the contentious efforts which he made, to induce her to sell her rights in the contested lands of her inheritance, a measure to which she never would consent—with her second husband, a man of brutal manners and temper, because she would neither compel her youngest daughter, Lady Isabella Sackville, to sacrifice herself in marriage to one of his youngest sons by his first wife, nor relinquish her interest in £5000, which she held as part of her marriage portion. Whilst touching with amiable forbearance, in her memoirs, on their respective injuries and caprices, she acknowledges that "in both their lifetimes, the marble pillars of Knowle in Kent, and Wilton in Wiltshire, were

to her oftentimes but the gay arbours of anguish, insomuch as a wise man (the Earl of Bedford) that knew the insides of my fortune, would often say that I lived in both these my lords' great families, as the river Rhone runs through the lake of Geneva without mingling any part of its streams with that lake, for I gave myself wholly to retiredness as much as I could in both, and made good books and virtuous thoughts my companions, which can never discern affliction, nor be daunted when it unjustly happens; and by a happy genius I overcame all those troubles, the (former) prayers of my blessed mother helping me therein." In 1638, when but just recovering from an almost fatal sickness, we find her writing to the Earl of Bedford to interpose with her lord for permission to her to come up to London, though but for ten days or a fortnight at the most, to attend to some of her affairs. "For I dare not," she says with a simple earnestness, "venture it without his leave, lest he should take that occasion to turn me out of this house, as he did out of Whitehall, and then I shall not know where to put my head." She was at length obliged to separate wholly from him, and his death in 1649 relieved her from her thralldom. She then retired to her own superb estates in the north, where she cultivated a princely hospitality, giving loose to a profusion at once magnificent and economical, and adorning the neighbourhood of her residence with splendid monuments of her liberality. She restored Skipton castle, and church, and five other castles and mansions of her ancestors, which had become dilapidated, to their pristine grandeur and convenience. Removing from castle to castle, she diffused plenty and happiness around her; her house was a school for the young, and a retreat for the aged; an asylum for the



persecuted, a college for the learned, and a pattern for all. She had the happiness to live very long, with few infirmities, and died at her castle at Brougham, 22d March, 1675, aged 85. This great countess had by Lord Dorset three sons, who died infants, and two daughters, who married the Earls of Thanet and Northampton. By the Earl of Pembroke she had no children. Her portrait, in Lodge, is a perfect gem.—The length of this notice has compelled us to abridge details in which we should otherwise have delighted to indulge. “Peace to thine ashes,” sweet Anne Clifford!

EDWARD, THIRD EARL OF BEDFORD.

Edward, the son of Sir Francis Russell, was little more than eleven years old when he succeeded to the earldom. He was placed under the wardship of his aunt, Lady Warwick. Without reflecting upon the discretion or good sense of that lady, it may be questioned whether a woman’s guardianship was not, on the whole, unfavourable to the young earl; and whether, had it been committed to Sir William Russell, or to any other personage conversant as well with the camp as with the court, he would not have given proofs of a more vigorous and active spirit. His knightly education, indeed, could not have been wholly neglected, as on more than one occasion he shone with the chivalric Earl of Cumberland in tilts and tourneys held in honour of the virgin Queen; but, with these exceptions, he appears to have taken no eager interest or part in either the round of court amusements or the stir of court affairs. When the Earl of Essex sallied out on his hasty insurrection, the Earl of Bedford, with the Lord Cromwell and other peers, accompanied him on his way to the city; on discovering, however, the real nature of Essex’s designs,

he lost no time in disengaging himself from such dangerous company. In a letter to the council he says—"I severed myself from him at a cross-street end, and taking water, came back to my house, where I made no delay, but with all convenient speed put myself and followers in readiness; and with the best strength I could then presently make, being about the number of twenty horse, I went toward the court for her majesty's service."

In 1592 we find the young earl pressing his suit with a daughter of Lord Chandos, but insuperable difficulties intervening, the negotiation was broken off, and the lady afterwards became the bride of his cousin Francis, the son of Sir William Russell. He did not long brood over his disappointment, for on the 12th December, 1594, he was married to Lucy, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Harrington of Exton, at his seat at Stepney—a lady not more celebrated for beauty and vivacity of wit than for her generosity to men of genius, the taste which she carried into all her pursuits, and the success with which she cultivated some of those lighter sciences that minister to taste its most refined gratification. On the accession of James, she was appointed by the queen, Anne of Denmark, to her privy chamber; whilst her mother, the Lady Harrington, was intrusted with the education of the Princess Elizabeth. The desire for such appointments, among the ladies of the court, gave rise to endless intrigues. The Earl of Worcester writes to Lord Shrewsbury—"All the rest are for the private chamber, *when they are not shut out*; for many times the doors are locked. But the plotting and malice amongst them is such, that I think envy hath tied an invisible snake about most of their necks, to sting one another to death!" Lady Rich, however, appears for

a time to have been the principal favourite. "Now," says Anne Clifford, "was my Lady Rich grown great with the queen, insomuch as my Lady of Bedford was something out with her, and when she came to Hampton Court, was entertained but even indifferently." Lady Bedford, however, soon emerged from the obscurity cast by the shadow of the Lady Rich, and again shone foremost in the court festivities. She was the "crowning rose" in that garland of English beauty which the Spanish ambassador desired Madame Beaumont, the lady of the French ambassador, to bring with her to an entertainment; the three others being Lady Rich, Lady Susan Vere, and Lady Dorothy Sidney; and, says the Lady Arabella Stuart, "great cheer they had." Lady Bedford, as well as the queen, also took a prominent part in the masques which were performed at court, and which were chiefly from the magic pen of Ben Jonson. In 1612 she was seized with an alarming illness, but by the 14th of the following February was so far recovered as to take that station at the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth which her rank prescribed. She appeared in the magnificent procession, robed, like the rest of the attendant married countesses in white satin, rich with brodered work, and glittering with pearls and precious stones. The bride herself was refulgent as a heroine of old romance, a crown of glowing gold upon her head, "made imperial by the pearls and diamonds placed thereon, which were so thick beset, that they stood like shining pinnacles upon her amber-coloured hair." Lady Bedford also played an important part in assisting George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, to supplant the favourite Carr in the royal favour. She was instrumental also in promoting the marriage of the Lord Hay to Lady Lucy Percy, daughter



of the Earl of Northumberland. In 1619 she had to lament the loss of her royal mistress, and, on this event taking place, she retired to her private villa, after sixteen years' attendance at court. Besides being forward in advancing the happiness of many youthful lovers, we find her in 1625, actively engaged in promoting the marriage of James, Lord Strange, afterwards seventh Earl of Derby, with Charlotte de la Tremouille. Indeed she seems to have engaged *con amore* in the occupation of a match-maker. In her retirement at Twickenham, she received the more familiar visits of the gay, the busy, and the enterprising of her time, gathered wisdom and enjoyment from her hours of lettered ease, and indulged in the society of the poets whose productions she admired and whose labours she munificently encouraged. She pursued also the study of medallist history and the collection of ancient coins, and she greatly excelled in horticulture: her garden at Moor Park, in Hertfordshire, being pronounced by Sir William Temple, the most beautiful and perfect, and altogether the sweetest place he had ever seen either in England or in foreign countries.\* In some of these occupations it is probable that the earl participated, although the equal tenor of his unambitious course has attracted little comment from contemporary writers. He died 3d May, 1627, and was privately interred at Chenies. The health of the countess was at the same time declining, and she expired on the 26th of the same month,† and was interred at Exton, in Rutlandshire, the parish register of which indicates the date of 1627. A singular fate has attended her memory. After having

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\* See Appendix, Note D.

† Mr. Lodge has fallen into an unaccountable error in stating that this lady "survived her husband for many years, but the date of her death is unknown." In this blunder he has been followed by the editor of *Sharpe's Peerage*.

passed with unblemished reputation and celebrity, through all the phases of a court by no means the most guarded and discreet, and carried with her into retirement the friendship and affection of the wise, the learned, and the good, she has been aspersed with little ceremony by Grainger and Pennant, the latter of whom calls her "that fantastic lady," and speaks scornfully of the earl, her husband, because he endured her. They died without issue.

FRANCIS, FOURTH EARL OF BEDFORD.

Edward, Earl of Bedford, was succeeded by his cousin Francis, the only son of the heroic William, baron of Thornhaugh. He had, at the age of nine years, accompanied his father into Ireland, where he remained till his recall, being then about twelve years old. He was knighted by King James in 1607, and in the following year was united to the object of his affections, Catherine, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Giles Brydges, third Lord Chandos of Sudeley. In the happy privacy of lettered and domestic ease, his early years of manhood had flown by with scarce a record. He had received, at one of the inns of court, the education of a lawyer, which had induced, upon a mind naturally strong, inductive, and sagacious, a habit of patient thought and close investigation. He applied himself to the examination of the various political and religious controversies that were then under debate. The discussions in the later parliaments of James, to which, after his father's decease, he was summoned as a baron, had strongly rivetted his attention. He attached himself then to the society of such men as Elliot, Selden, and Sir Robert Cotton; and directed his study to the precedents, the usages, and power of former parliaments.



He was one of the thirty-two peers of the more ancient nobility who signed the noted petition to the king in 1621, complaining that the privileges of the English hereditary peerage had been violated by the precedence given to the many English peers with Irish and Scottish titles, which James had recently created. This proceeding excited the strong displeasure of the king, whose maxims of indefeasible and sacred right became with Charles, his successor, an innate, fixed, and constant principle of action. In the contests between the latter and his commons the earl was not an unconcerned spectator. He engaged with warmth in defence of the liberty of the subject, and became the leader of its advocates in the House of Peers. When the petition of right came before the house, the earl distinguished himself so conspicuously in its favour as to attract the attention and displeasure of the king, who suddenly commanded him away from parliament to his distant lieutenancy of Devonshire, where he was detained till the session was prorogued. He was afterwards prosecuted in the Star Chamber, with several others, for their liberal opinions, but it was found prudent to drop these violent proceedings without pressing them to an issue.

He was no sooner freed from the above prosecution than he embarked in the project for draining those fens called the Great Level, and afterwards in honour of him, the Bedford Level, which extend into the counties of Northampton, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Norfolk, and Lincoln. Of that stupendous work he was the principal undertaker, and in 1630, 95,000 acres of the inundated land were allotted to him, and to the few whom his example had encouraged to take inferior shares in the enterprise. In the autumn of 1637, the earl had expended

on it the immense sum of £100,000. The work was suspended by the civil wars; but the undertaking was resumed in 1649, by his son and successor, and by 1653, it was at length completely accomplished.

In the meantime the public discontents had risen to a height that threatened the most serious consequences to the monarchy and nation. The Earl of Bedford, notwithstanding his liberal principles, was, according to Lord Clarendon, "too wise a man, and of too great a fortune, to wish the subversion of the government." He carried himself towards the king with the most profound respect, and with all professions of loyalty and zeal for his service; and contrived to live in a decent and grave familiarity with the ministers, while in parliament he decried their measures and their motives with the utmost eagerness. Charles, who possessed more penetration than any of his ministers, secretly determined to form a new administration, composed chiefly of the most important men in the opposition party, and to place the Earl of Bedford at their head. In the meantime the earl conducted with the most active assiduity the affairs of his party, in which he possessed more authority and was trusted with more confidence than any other of its leaders. He had the chief management of the treaty with the Scottish commissioners at Ripon, in 1640; and in 1641, was sworn of the king's privy council, to the infinite joy of the people, together with Hertford, Essex, Warwick, and others of the same party. These noblemen appear, during the short time in which they exercised their appointment, to have endeavoured to moderate the councils of the king. When the Earl of Strafford was impeached, the Earl of Bedford promised his best efforts to induce the more violent of

Strafford's enemies to be satisfied with a less bitter penalty than death; and to procure the revenue of the monarch to be settled as amply as that of any of his predecessors on the throne, by the establishment of the excise. This design, however, was suddenly frustrated by the earl's death. In the midst of his negociations with Charles, he was attacked, on the 1st or 2d of May, 1641, by a virulent small-pox, which terminated his life on the 9th of that month, the very day on which the king, by commission, passed the bill of attainder against Strafford. Thus died Francis, known to his contemporaries by the title of "the wise Earl of Bedford." The House of Lords, on the following day, recorded on its journals their sense of the great loss they had sustained; and on the day of his funeral, most of the House of Peers with their servants attended at Bedford House, to the number of three hundred coaches, to accompany the body to its last home. He was buried at Chenies, where a stately monument is erected to his memory. His countess survived him till 1657, when she was laid beside him in the same depository.

#### FAMILY OF FRANCIS, FOURTH EARL OF BEDFORD.

The earl had four sons and four daughters, whose fortunes we shall briefly trace.

##### I.—WILLIAM.

William, the eldest, succeeded him in the family honours. The particulars of his history will be found below.

##### II.—FRANCIS.

Francis, the second son, married Catherine, daughter of William, Lord Grey of Wark, widow of Sir Edward Moseley, bart., and of the Lord North and Grey. He had no offspring by this lady, and died at Paris, in 1641, a month before his



father. This event affected the old earl deeply. On receiving the tidings, he informed Dr. Cademan, one of his physicians, "that four fair oaks of his had lately been blown down, as it were altogether; and on this subject made so moving a lament, as to prove that their removal took deep root in his thoughts." He accordingly sickened and died, as we have already related.

### III.—JOHN.

John, the third son, was bred to military service. The earl had endeavoured to negotiate a marriage for him with Anne, the youthful daughter of Sir Robert Lovett, who had been married to his cousin Edward, Earl of Bath, but was now a widow. But a rival suitor appeared, in the person of Henry Bouchier, the new Earl of Bath; and the lady's fancy wavered between Mr. John Russell's merits, and a secret preference for his elder brother Francis. Lord Bedford, however, "would not marry his son Frank to a demurring, though he would have ventured his third son to have argued it;" and so the affair fell through; Lord Bedford remarking—"it is a country-business observation, that you must not put warm eggs under a sick hen!" Mr. John Russell is afterwards described by Count Grammont, as being an admirer of "La belle Hamilton," whom the count himself afterwards married. Mr. Russell commanded a regiment for the king during the civil wars, was wounded at the battle of Naseby, and served with great reputation in many other actions of the time. On the Restoration, he was made colonel of the first regiment of guards, and died, unmarried, in 1681, at the age of 69.

### IV.—EDWARD.

Edward, the youngest son, married Penelope, widow of Sir William Brooke, and daughter of Sir Moses Hill, of



Hillsborough Castle, Ireland, and ancestor to the present Marquis of Downshire. By her he had five sons and two daughters. His second son, Edward, was one of the great ornaments of his age and country, subsequently better known under the name of Admiral Russell. The admiral distinguished himself at the battle of La Hogue, 1692, and is the centre figure in West's picture in commemoration of that event. In 1697, having by his diligence prevented an invasion by James II., he was created Baron Russell of Shingay, and Earl of Orford; but dying without issue in 1727, the title became extinct.

V.—CATHERINE, LADY BROOKE.

The earl had four daughters, Catherine, Anne, Margaret, and Diana; all of whom rivetted regard or engaged admiration by their personal attractions, though varying considerably in their style of beauty. From their portraits preserved at Woburn Abbey, their characteristic distinctions may, with but little aid from fancy, be clearly and significantly traced. Catherine, the eldest, born in 1614, appears first at the age of thirteen, a large ruff encircling her neck, and setting off to great advantage a countenance full of gentleness and calm reflection. Her auburn hair, thrown back in perfect plainness, is behind fastened with a sprig of laurel. In the full maturity of womanhood she is again presented to us in a dark costume of almost puritanical severity, which, notwithstanding, well comports with the regular features of her oval face, and an expression of great simplicity of character—the placid gentleness of earlier years settled into a composed and dignified sedateness. But for the bunch of flowers at her breast, she might be deemed a recluse or nun. She was married, at the age of fourteen, to Robert Greville, second Lord

Brooke, then recently returned from his continental travels. He had been adopted as a son, in default of offspring, by his cousin, Fulke, Lord Brooke, Sir Philip Sidney's well-known literary friend, who conferred upon him an education well befitting the title and inheritance to which he destined him. To these Sir Robert had the regret to be prematurely called, by the assassination of his kinsman in 1628.\* The political sentiments entertained by Lord Brooke were in unison with those of the Earl of Bedford. His ardent love of civil and religious liberty, imbibed during his travels in Germany and Switzerland, led him to view with indignation and impatience the rapid progress of the monarchy towards despotism, and to take a prominent part with his compatriots in curbing its career.† The date of Lady Brooke's death is entirely unknown.

VI.—ANNE, COUNTESS OF BRISTOL.

Anne, the second daughter, was born in 1615. Her countenance, symmetrical in all its features, transparent in its tints, and illuminated with eyes that gave its expression somewhat of an imperial, but by no means an imperious character, exhibits a luxuriant beauty sublimed above her sisters, by the superior intellect beaming on her forehead. Her auburn hair, disposed on each side of her face in a multitude of ringlets, is bound in a Grecian knot behind with strings of pearl. She is habited in a drapery of blue, and would appear likely to have captivated at the very first sight the affections of that extraordinary nobleman to whom she came to be united. George Digby, the son of the Earl of Bristol, who was ambassador in Spain, when the Duke of Buckingham and Prince Charles made their romantic journey thither, had very early in life given

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\* See Appendix, Note E.

† See Appendix, Note F.

proofs of varied talent. When his father lay a prisoner in the Tower, the young Lord Digby (then only twelve years old) presented a petition in his behalf at the bar of the Commons, with an appropriate speech, the modest confidence of which, in connexion with his extreme youth, graceful person, and ingenuous features, excited no small admiration. He was distinguished at Oxford by his attainments in every walk of literature, and returned from his travels the most accomplished young man of this, or perhaps of any other nation; a distinction to which the beauty of his person, and the winning grace of his deportment gave peculiar lustre. It is at this period of his popularity and promise that he is depicted, with his brother-in-law Lord Russell, by the unrivalled pencil of Vandyck, in a painting at Althorp, which can never be forgotten by those who have once seen it.\* The retired life which his father, after his liberation, found it desirable to lead, proved of eminent advantage to Lord Digby; for, finding no footing at court, he went down to Sherborne Castle, where he cultivated an extensive acquaintance with the men of quality and talents who resorted thither for the earl's society. He gave his leisure hours there exclusively to books and study, the intenseness of which was attested by his acquisitions in the abstruse branches of philosophy, his deep acquaintance with the fathers, and his own controversial writings. With the poets of his own and ancient times he was intimately conversant, and he excelled in every walk of art and science to which his inclination wandered. Such was Lord Digby at the time of which we write; his brilliant qualities the theme of every tongue. Later in life, when he engaged in the

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\* A fine engraving from this portrait will be found in Lodge, vol. 8.

tumult of public affairs, he suffered himself to be borne hither and thither by the current, at the mercy of every new tide of thought, or fluctuation of ambition ; hence his whole mind, as well as conduct, appeared full of shining inconsistencies. Still through every phase of character, his engaging personal qualities never failed to conciliate affection, even when they failed to shield from condemnation the errors into which he was betrayed.\*

VII.—MARGARET, COUNTESS OF CARLISLE.

Margaret, the third daughter, was born in 1618. Her features were cast in a yet finer mould of form than Lady Bristol's, with somewhat less strength of character in their expression ; but this disparity was more than compensated by the ineffable sweetness of her eyes, and the contour of her lips, which breathed an unaffected air of half-angelic goodness. There was in Lady Bristol's aspect that which might seem to challenge admiration: the repose of Lady Margaret's spoke of feminine reserve and delicacy, regulating and giving dignity to a spirit that appeared "to love whate'er it looked upon." There was less power of thought enthroned upon her forehead, but in concert with the language of her eyes and lips, it beamed with a pure, a quiet, and a happy beauty that would assuredly realise every promise which it made to a virtuous taste or an enamoured fancy. Her hair, of rather a darker tint than that of her two sisters, hung in long ringlets on her neck, enwreathed with a few simple flowers that received rather than imparted adornment to her person. She was married at an early age to James Hay, afterwards second Earl of Carlisle, whose father filled so eminent a part in the transactions of the reign of James I., and who ran so

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\* See Appendix, Note G.



eccentric a course in the career of pomp and prodigality. The countess, after the death of her lord in October, 1660, married, says Dugdale, Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, and second Earl of Holland; and lastly, Edward Montagu, the celebrated Lord Kimbolton of an earlier period, and equally illustrious during the civil wars as Earl of Manchester. With this nobleman, who was universally beloved for his unbounded hospitality, obliging temper, and great virtues, which have won from Clarendon the highest eulogiums, she spent but a few happy years, as he died in 1664. She survived him nearly twelve years, being interred at Chenies in 1676, but left no offspring by either of her husbands.

VIII.—DIANA, LADY NEWPORT.

Diana, the earl's fourth daughter, was born in 1622. She blended in her countenance the predominating qualities of her two elder sisters; but of the two it possessed more of Lady Carlisle's benignity than Lady Bristol's loftiness. Its prevalent expression was that of a candid and a tranquil spirit, owing more, in its power of pleasing, to the grace of regularity and calm composure, than to the active charm of animated thought. She was married to Francis, the eldest son of Sir Richard Newport, of High Ercall, in Shropshire, a gentleman who, for his devotion to the cause of Charles I., came to be rewarded with the title of Lord Newport, by letters patent granted in the year 1642. Lady Newport, by letters patent to her husband in 1675, was raised to the rank of a vicountess; and by a similar mark of royal favour, in 1694, she became Countess of Bradford. She died 30th January, 1696-7, and was interred at Chenies.

## WILLIAM, FIRST DUKE OF BEDFORD.

This nobleman, as already stated, was the eldest son of Francis, fourth Earl of Bedford. He was born in 1613, and received his education at Magdalen College, Oxford. He then travelled for two years, and returned in the winter of 1634, an extremely handsome and accomplished gentleman. There was at this time three young beauties of almost equal personal attractions, who divided the admiration of the court, the Lady Elizabeth Cecil, Lady Anne Carr, and Lady Dorothy Sidney. It was some time before his intentions as to these ladies was divined by that numerous tribe which flutters in the sunshine of court fashion; but his secret partiality was at length betrayed. "The voice goes," says a writer of the day, "that he bends somewhat towards the Lady Ann Carr." She was the sole daughter of the Earl and Countess of Somerset, whose guilt, as the murderers of Sir Thomas Overbury, we presume must be generally known to our readers. Lady Anne was born 9th December, 1615, whilst her mother was imprisoned in the Tower. She had grown up in total ignorance of the crimes of her parents; whilst every care that parental fondness could suggest had been lavished on her education. The Earl of Bedford had stood prominently forward on the day of her mother's condemnation, and could not but have participated in the general abhorrence that attended the disclosure of her guilt. Anxious now, both for his son's welfare and the honour of his house, he warned him to be upon his guard against the dangerous beauty of Lady Anne Carr, but freely permitted him to choose a wife from any other family in England. Affection is, however, no passive creature of the will; and a passionate attachment sprung

up between the two, before which every lighter consideration of policy and prudence was quickly extinguished. The earl opposed their union; the prohibition but increased their flame; and a war of conflicting wishes, regrets, and troubles thus arose, which threatened to disturb for ever the peace of either the father or the son. Many mutual friends endeavoured to mediate a satisfactory conclusion of the affair, but none could conquer the earl's repugnance to the match, till the king himself became a suitor, sending the Duke of Lennox with urgent entreaties to persuade him no longer to withhold his countenance from the connexion. His intercession took effect, and a treaty was commenced. The earl's high requisitions and the poverty of Somerset created fresh delay; but at length, by the sale of his house at Chiswick, his plate, his jewels, and his household furniture, a portion of £12,000 was raised by Somerset, who observed to the lord chamberlain, that "since her affections were settled, and as one of them must be undone if the marriage went not on, he had rather ruin himself than his own deserving child." All obstacles being thus removed, the marriage was celebrated during the Easter of 1637, Lord Russell being then twenty-three years old, and the bride twenty-one.\* The undisturbed happiness and harmony in which they lived, soon reconciled the earl to the connexion; and, eminent in all the duties of civil and domestic life, the Lady Anne Carr is only now remembered as the virtuous and happy mother of the great and good Lord William Russell.

Lord Russell succeeded his father as fifth earl, in 1641. He had sat in the House of Commons with Mr. Pym for Tavistock; and in the upper house, to which he was now

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\* See Appendix, Note H.



called, the example of his father induced him to range himself on the side of the people. As the public animosities increased, he endeavoured to keep the middle course of constitutional safety; but strict neutrality became at length impossible; and when the royal standard was raised at Nottingham, he did not hesitate to take his first stand in arms upon the side of the parliament. He raised the Devonshire militia, and accepted a commission as general of horse under the Earl of Essex. He was almost immediately despatched, with a powerful body of cavalry and seven thousand foot, to harass the Marquis of Hertford in the western counties, where that nobleman was employed in levying forces for the king. He conducted the enterprise with vigour and success, rejoined the main army, and had assigned to him the charge of the reserve of horse at the battle of Edgehill, where he is reported by Lord Wharton "to have done extraordinary service." He saved, in fact, the parliamentary army from total defeat; for on the route and flight of Essex's two wings, "he brought up very gallantly," amidst the play of cannon, his central troop of horse, which falling on the rear and flank of the king's foot, wrung from Prince Rupert the advantage he had gained. The earl now exerted himself strenuously for an accommodation between the contending parties; but being thwarted by the more violent of his own party, he, with the Earls of Clare and Holland, resolved to throw themselves upon the king. He received them graciously, but their reception by his counsellors was cold and unpalatable. The earl, however, joined the royal army; and at the battle of Newbury "charged with bravery in the king's own regiment of horse, and well behaved himself throughout." The disdain and disrespect,



however, with which he was treated by the queen and the courtiers so effectually disgusted him that he rejoined Essex at St. Alban's. The parliament had sequestered the earl's estate, but after the battle of Marston Moor in 1644, the sequestration was taken off. He took little part in public affairs after this, but retired into private life until the Restoration. During his retirement the king three several times became his guest at Woburn in 1644, 5, and 7. On being delivered up by the Scots to the parliament, he remained nine days at Woburn, where the proposals of the army were submitted to him; and his rejection of which may be said to have decided his unhappy fate. During the commonwealth and protectorate, the Earl of Bedford found an agreeable relief from the distractions of the times in the bosom of his family, which consisted of seven sons and four daughters. The earl is stated to have liberally, though secretly, supplied Charles II. with pecuniary aid during his exile, and he heartily concurred in every prudent measure to forward his recall. On the eve of the Restoration, he resumed his place among the peers, and took an active share in those conferences for the settlement of the kingdom, which preceded that event. At the coronation in 1661, he carried St. Edward's sceptre, and in 1672 was elected a knight of the garter.

We shall dismiss very briefly the remainder of the earl's history. The trial and execution of his eldest son Lord William are noticed below. We shall here simply state in reference to that unhappy catastrophe, that the name of the earl has never been mentioned as participating in the proceedings for which Lord William was arraigned. The greatest interest was made for a reprieve and pardon for Lord William. The Earl of Bedford is said to have

offered £50,000, some say £100,000, to the Duchess of Portsmouth, the king's favourite mistress, for her intervention, if it proved successful; and in a letter which he himself wrote to the king, he pathetically assures him that he would think himself happy to be left only with bread and water, so that the life of so endeared a son were spared to him. These applications would probably have been successful had not Charles been steeled against forgiveness by his inexorable brother, the Duke of York, afterwards James II. We must also record the bitter taunt which, by a just retribution, the aged earl flung at James, when in the last agonies of his expiring sovereignty. "My lord," said that miserable prince, when for the last time he called about him the few eminent persons who had not yet joined his adversary, "you are a good man; you have much interest with the peers; you can do me service with them to-day." "For myself," said the earl, with a subdued reproach, in which, however, there was more of sorrow than of anger, "for myself, sir, I am old and weak, but I *once had a son* who could indeed have served your majesty!"

The execution of the earl's eldest son, in 1683, was followed in May, 1684, by the death of his countess in her 69th year. The health of this amiable lady had received a shock which she never recovered; from the moment of Lord Russell's tragic death it visibly declined; and in musings on his manly virtues, and her own irreparable loss, she pined silently away. Her death is said to have been accelerated by another incident of striking pathos—the accidental sight, in a window of the earl's study, of a pamphlet commenting on her mother's guilt, of which she is stated to have been till then mercifully kept in igno-

rance. The pang of this disclosure was too great for her enfeebled frame to bear ; and in the recoil of concentrated feeling, the chord of life gave way. She was found senseless by her attendants, with the open page before her ; and a passage in one of Lady Russell's letters (widow of Lord William) favours the supposition, that if her gentle spirit had been strengthened to survive the shock, it would have been only purchased by the loss of reason. She was interred in the family vault at Chenies.

When the Prince and Princess of Orange mounted the throne, the Earl of Bedford was sworn of their privy council ; was made lord-lieutenant of the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, and Middlesex ; and on the 11th of May, 1694, was advanced to the dignities of Marquis of Tavistock and Duke of Bedford, "as the father of Lord Russell" says the patent, "and to celebrate the memory of so noble a son." Having seen his numerous offspring all settled in conditions suitable to their birth, beloved and honoured for their merits and his own, and the public principles, for which he had paid a price so inestimable, triumphantly established, he had little more to live for. It was his daily petition that, next to the pardon of his transgressions, the God in whom he had so faithfully trusted would grant him an easy passage to the tomb ; and the prayer was graciously accepted. "Never," said Dr. Freeman, in preaching his funeral sermon, "never did any person leave the world with greater inward peace, or a more resigned mind, with less struggle and discomposure, or with more assured hopes of a joyful resurrection. His lamp of life was not blown out ; the oil wasted by degrees, until the flame decayed. Nature was quite tired and spent, and he fell asleep," on the 7th of September, 1700, in his 87th year. He was

interred at Chenies, where a handsome monument of white marble is erected to the memory of himself and countess, surrounded with medallions of their numerous issue. Their portraits by Vandyke, will be found engraved in Lodge, vol. 9. A handsomer pair were perhaps never joined.

FAMILY OF WILLIAM, DUKE OF BEDFORD.

I.—FRANCIS, LORD RUSSELL.

Francis, Lord Russell, was born in 1638. After completing his education at Cambridge, with his next brother, William, they were sent upon their travels through France, Switzerland, and part of Germany to Augsburg, where they made some considerable stay. Previously to their setting out, the earl addressed to them a letter of advice, of unexampled beauty. Lord Francis, from the prevalence of a melancholy temperament, which, as he grew up, settled into an utter disrelish of society, seems to have been little able to requite his father's cares. He parted from his brother at Augsburg, in the summer of 1657, and for ten years sought by change of scene from the German to the Italian cities, and from Italy to France, to divert the sluggish current of his humour: ten more were spent without memorial in congenial privacy, and in 1578, he died unmarried at the age of 41.

II.—WILLIAM, LORD RUSSELL.

The story of this unhappy nobleman is familiar to every reader of English history. He was born 29th Sept., 1639, and was educated, and went on his travels, as we have seen, with his elder brother Francis. Travel accomplished in him its proper end; his observation was quickened, his knowledge of men and manners deepened and enlarged, and his aim at excellence in every thing he undertook was



kept in perpetual play, till it settled into that generous ambition of distinction which is the genuine parent of heroic actions. During this time he kept up an active correspondence with Mr. Thornton, who describes his letters as "fraught with choice descriptions, and observations clothed in a style so free, masculine, coherent, and exact, as would not (flattery apart) have dishonoured the greatest masters of eloquence." At Lyons he had the fortune to meet the celebrated load-star of the north, Christina of Sweden, who attracted to that city, while she stayed, a galaxy of rank and beauty that dazzled his imagination. In a few decisive strokes, he sketches to his friend the impression made upon him by the arctic heroine. "I wished you a sight truly of the Queen of Sweden, who surely deserves admiration, if any woman does; I do not mean for the beauty of her face, but for the majesty that appears in it, as likewise in all her actions and comportments, which savour far more of a man than of a woman, which sex she resembles in nothing more than in her inconstancy. For in truth I conceive her to be as weary of her new religion as of her old one, as is plainly seen by her postures, gestures, and actions at mass; before which, I think she would at any time prefer a good comedy, and a handsome witty courtier to the devoutest father." In 1658, Lord Russell contemplated engaging in the Swedish wars, but the Restoration being meditated in the following year, he was hastily summoned home from Paris by his father. Upon the Restoration, he was returned to the new parliament as member for Tavistock; and being in the heyday of his youth, he mixed with ardour in the gaities of the reviving court, not without being entangled for a while in some of its prevailing

dissipations. A passionate attachment, however, to the lady who became his future wife, soon freed him from the pursuit of these illusory pleasures. Rachel, the youthful widow of Lord Vaughan, was the second daughter of Thomas Wriothesley, the virtuous Earl of Southampton. From her mother, Rachel de Rouvigny, a French Protestant, who was known in youth by the title of *La belle et vertueuse Huguenotte*, she inherited considerable personal attractions; and from her father a copious fund of sound and sterling sense, which, combined with a rare assemblage of those sweet and winning virtues which unaffected piety had engrafted on her native disposition, gave a tone of exaltation to her character that was early noted and appreciated by her friends. Lord Russell saw, conversed with, and became quickly enamoured with this amiable lady; and after a courtship of two years, they were married in May, 1669; immediately after which they set out on an excursion into Scotland, visiting Anne Clifford, Countess of Pembroke, at Pendragon Castle on their way. Then followed a happiness that seems to have reconciled with reality the ideal bliss that poets have so often feigned, in the union of the pure beings of their imagination, and which increased with the intimacy of succeeding years. In this happy and retired tenour ran the first four years of their wedded life. But at the evils that now overhung his country from an arbitrary ministry his spirit took alarm; to the championship of its cause he brought indeed no shining talents, but a reputation for integrity and virtue that soon amounted to reverence, a soul inflexibly tenacious of its purpose, a love of constitutional freedom, and a glowing zeal for the Protestant religion. In this spirit he strenuously opposed in parliament the measures of the

government, from 1673 until 1679, when the king resolved to combine in his councils several of the most distinguished leaders of the opposition with an equal number of the old adherents of the court. Lord Russell and others of the country party were sworn of the privy council, of which Shaftesbury was made the president. Here, however, he breathed no congenial atmosphere. The king refused to be guided by the majority of his council; and when Russell and others, on 28th January, 1680, demanded the king's permission to leave the council board, he answered with laconic emphasis, "Ay, gentlemen, with all my heart." The country party, to which Lord Russell belonged, had now obtained their honourable synonyme of Whigs, and they were earnest for the suppression of popery, and the exclusion of a Catholic successor. The exclusion bill itself was seconded in the House of Commons by Lord Russell, who was appointed to carry it up to the lords, which he did, accompanied by more than two hundred members of the house. Several wished it to be kept back for a time, "but Lord Russell, animated by exceeding zeal, and having the bill in his hand, ran away with it, in spite of all opposition. The members, seeing that, thronged after him, and when it was delivered, gave a mighty shout." The bill, however, was thrown out by the lords on the first reading.

The alleged participation of Lord Russell in the Rye-house plot in 1683 is a subject too familiar to the readers of history to be here discussed. Suffice it to say that the Duke of Monmouth, the Earl of Essex, the Lords Russell and Grey, and others, were on this occasion accused of treasonable practices. Monmouth was admitted to bail and fled; but Russell and Essex were brought before the

privy council, where, says Burnet, "the king told Russell that nobody suspected him of any design against his person, but that he had good evidence of his being in designs against his government." After a long examination he was committed a close prisoner to the Tower. He was brought to trial on the 13th July, charged with conspiring with other traitors to bring the king to death, to raise war and rebellion against him, and to massacre his subjects. With a serenity that excited the highest admiration, Lord Russell appeared at the bar of the Old Bailey. The scene has been immortalized by the genius of Hayter, whose picture of the trial is at Woburn Abbey. Every hardship that could be inflicted by angry and vindictive enemies he was doomed that day to bear. Even before he opened his lips in his defence, he was treated by Sawyer, the attorney-general, like a guilty felon. His request for delay for the arrival of his witnesses was refused; his right to challenge such jurors as possessed no freehold was overruled. He at length requested pens and an amanuensis. To prevent his having the aid of counsel, Sawyer said he might employ a *servant*. "Any of your servants," said Pemberton, the chief justice, "shall assist in writing for you." "Two," said Jefferies; "he may have two." "My wife," said Lord Russell, the heart of the husband and the father rising to his tongue, "my wife is here, my lord, to do it." The bystanders turned, and saw the daughter of the most virtuous minister whom Charles had ever possessed or disregarded, take her station at the table; and pity, shame, and sorrow, and holy reverence, and thrilling indignation, touched by turns the soul of every one who had a heart to feel for his country or himself, for wounded virtue or for violated freedom.



The proof against him was not so strong as had been expected, and the defence which Lord Russell made was in harmony with his character—unambitious, manly, and consistent with itself. He neither avowed nor denied the facts of the case; and leaving his honour to the justice of Heaven and posterity, he contented himself with an indignant disavowal of the treason with which he was charged. He was found guilty of the various counts of the indictment; but the parliament which subsequently cancelled his attainder has declared that “by partial and unjust constructions of law, he was wrongfully attainted and convicted.” His deportment throughout was firm and collected, and he listened to the verdict, and afterwards to the sentence of death, without the slightest apparent emotion.

From the moment of his being cited for examination before the privy council, Lord Russell prepared himself for death. Upon entering the Tower he said to his gentleman usher, Andrew Taunton, that he was sworn against, and that they would have his life. When Taunton expressed a hope that this would not be in the power of his enemies, “Yes,” said Lord Russell, “for the devil is broke loose.” To his wife he stated his entire willingness to leave the world; and on receiving a letter from her full of high-minded exhortations, he declared, in a transport of admiration at the heroism she evinced, “that he was at that moment above all earthly things; above lieutenant, or constable, or king, or duke.” During the week that elapsed between his conviction and execution, he devoted his hours to the scriptures, and his mind had settled into so happy a serenity as to manifest an absolute triumph over death. The narrative of his last

days, left by Dr. Burnet, is fraught with the most affecting tokens of his magnanimity and mildness, his fortitude and resignation, forgiveness of injuries, affection to his family, love of his country, and piety to God; and he declared that he had such a clear assurance of Divine acceptance, as to render his approaching exit, except as it affected others, scarcely worth a thought. We have already alluded to the exertions made to obtain a pardon; but it was by Lady Russell that the most unwearied efforts were exerted, and she applied herself with untiring industry in making every intercession to friendship or power that she could make without derogating from her self-respect. The king, mistrusting his own firmness, forbade her admission to his presence, lest he should be moved by her distress. Formal petitions to the king and duke being the only means of access open to her, Lord Russell, though expressing his strong desire that she would "give over thus beating every bush," yielded to her importunity; and the petitions were sent, but without effect. The day before his death was spent by him principally in devotion. He received the sacrament from Tillotson, heard two short sermons from Burnet, and was engaged in intimate conversation with him till towards evening. Lord Cavendish, who had lived in the closest intimacy with him, offered to manage his escape by changing clothes with him; and the Duke of Monmouth, by message, offered to surrender himself if this would contribute to his safety; but he calmly replied, "it will be no advantage to me to have my friends die with me." Being seized with a bleeding at the nose, he said to Dr. Burnet, "I shall not now let blood to divert this distemper; that will be done to-morrow." In the evening he received the visits of a few friends, and with

firmness took his last leave of them, and of his innocent young children. His lady stayed, at his desire, to partake alone with him of his last earthly meal; and when she too arose to go—in an agony of spirit, but perfectly composed and calm, controlling her own emotion that he might retain the mastery of his—he tenderly kissed her, embraced her for the last time, and gazed after her as she departed with a feeling that condensed into that one moment the emotion, the trials, and the grief of years. He then turned to Dr. Burnet, by whom he was now rejoined, and exclaimed, “The bitterness of death is over!”

On the following morning (July 21) the metropolis sent forth its multitudes to gaze, to sorrow, or to glow over the contemplation of a memorable and a mournful sight. A little before the sheriffs conducted him to the scaffold, he wound up his watch, saying, “Now I have done with time, and henceforth must think solely of eternity.” The scaffold was erected in Lincoln’s Inn fields, whither he was conducted from the Tower. As he passed Southampton House, where he had spent so many happy hours, a tear involuntarily started to his eye, which he quickly wiped away. On the scaffold, instead of addressing the people, he delivered a paper to the sheriffs, in which he maintained his political sentiments with a magnanimous moderation. Without the least change of countenance he then laid his head upon the block, and at two strokes it was severed from his body. He was only in his 44th year. Lady Russell survived until the 29th September, 1723, when she died at her house in Bloomsbury, at the advanced age of 86. Some idea of her character may be gathered from the account we have already given. A splendid eulogium on her virtues will be found in the “Moral Sketches” of

Hannah More, who declares “that such a combination of tenderness the most exquisite, magnanimity the most unaffected, and Christian piety the most practical, have not often met in the same mind. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all!” We cannot resist quoting one remarkable proof at once of the tenderness and firmness of her character. We shall have occasion to record the anxious solicitude with which she attended the death-bed of her son, the second duke. The second of her two daughters, the Duchess of Rutland, died shortly after in childbirth of her tenth child. Her eldest daughter, Rachel, Duchess of Devonshire, being at the same time confined on a similar occasion, and making anxious and importunate inquiries of her after the state of her sister’s health, the incomparable parent replied, without a moment’s hesitation, “Your sister is very well; I have this morning kissed her, out of bed, my dear!”—which she had done—in her coffin!

Lord Russell left an only son, Wriothsley, who succeeded to his grandfather’s honours and estates; and two daughters, Rachel, married to William Cavendish, second Duke of Devonshire; and Catherine, to John Manners, Marquis of Granby, son and heir of John, first Duke of Rutland.

We shall briefly dismiss the rest of the duke’s family. John, the third son, died young; Edward and Robert, the fourth and fifth, both of whom married, died childless. James, the sixth son, married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edmund Wright, Lord Mayor of London; and secondly Elizabeth, daughter of Tryphæna Grove, who survived him, and married for her second husband Sir Henry Houghton,



baronet, of Houghton Tower, Lancashire. George, the seventh son, also married; but from these last two sons no male issue now remains. The daughters were—Anne, who died young, in consequence of eating certain noxious berries, that were partaken of also by her second sister, Diana, who, however, happily recovered, and married, first, Sir Greville Verney, and secondly, William, Baron Allington. Catherine, the third daughter, died young; and Margaret, the youngest, married her cousin Edward, Earl of Orford.

WRIOTHESLEY, SECOND DUKE OF BEDFORD.

On the death of William, first Duke of Bedford, in 1700, he was succeeded by his grandson, Wriothesley, only son of William Lord Russell. Born 1st November, 1680, he had been too young at his father's death in 1683, to be sensible of his irreparable loss. His education was conducted under the eye of his mother, who listened in due time to a proposal for his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs. Howland, of Streatham. Lord Russell was at that time scarce fifteen, and his destined bride was probably still younger; but the match was promoted by the relations on both sides, and approved of by King William, who, in compliment to the large succession to which Miss Howland was entitled, created the young bridegroom Baron Howland of Streatham, immediately after the marriage, which was celebrated 23d May, 1695, the ceremony being performed by Bishop Burnet. After the marriage he went to finish his education at Oxford, and at the age of seventeen he went upon his travels. After visiting Germany, he, in 1698, arrived at Rome, where he passed the winter in a round of festivities. Here having indulged in play and

sustained serious losses, the embarrassment which ensued effectually cured him of his propensity to that pernicious passion. He returned to England in 1699, with all his virtuous sentiments confirmed, and his personal accomplishments improved. His first study, on succeeding to the dukedom, was to repair the losses which his indiscretions had occasioned; and this he soon accomplished by a system of wise economy. Few farther particulars of his life remain to be communicated. He was devoted to floriculture, landscape gardening, and agriculture; and in these pursuits, and the perusal of the books which he was constantly adding to his library, his years passed on in tranquil retirement. He took some part, however, in public affairs, particularly in the high disputes that agitated the reign and parliaments of Queen Anne. In May, 1711, while in the full enjoyment of health and vigour, he was seized with the small-pox; neither inoculation nor vaccination were then known; as soon as the disorder had declared itself, his wife and children were obliged to fly from him; it baffled all the attempts used to soften or subdue it; and in the arms of his weeping and devoted mother he sank quietly to rest in his thirty-first year. The duchess survived her husband thirteen years, dying 29th June, 1724, aged forty-two. They had two sons and three daughters, of whom the eldest, Lady Rachel, was married first to Scroop Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater, and secondly to Sir Richard Lyttleton; and the Lady Elizabeth married William Capel, Earl of Essex. Wriothsley, the eldest son, succeeded to the title. The second son was John, afterwards fourth duke.

**WRIOTHESLEY, THIRD DUKE OF BEDFORD.**

Wriothsley, third Duke of Bedford, succeeded his father

when little more than three years of age. He was married at the age of seventeen, 22nd April, 1725, to the Lady Anne Egerton, only daughter of Scroop, Duke of Bridgewater, by Elizabeth Churchill, daughter of John, Duke of Marlborough. His minority terminated in 1729; and while his brother, Lord John, went upon his travels, and devoted his energies to the culture of his mind, the duke consigned himself to inglorious indolence and ease. To dissipate the gay monopoly of life, he flew to the turf and the billiard table, and became wholly absorbed by the excitements of play. He was fond of the fine arts, and at one period found pleasure in the pages of the poet and historian; but his fatal love of hazard seems at last to have extinguished his enjoyment of all other pursuits. This reckless dissipation gave wings to his wealth, and enervated at once the health of his body and the vigour of his mind. Serious symptoms of decline having appeared, he was advised by his physicians to try the milder air of Lisbon, and he sailed for that port in September, 1732; but becoming worse on the passage, was compelled to land at Corunna, where he expired on the 23rd October, in his twenty-fourth year. His remains were brought to England and interred at Chenies. The duke left no offspring. His youthful widow married for her second husband William, third Earl of Jersey, by whom she had two sons, and died in 1762.

JOHN, FOURTH DUKE OF BEDFORD.

By the decease of his brother Wriothesley, Lord John Russell succeeded to the estates of his ancestors, and became fourth Duke of Bedford, being then twenty two years of age. He had married, in October, 1731, Lady Diana Spencer, with whom Frederick Prince of Wales

wished to ally himself, but was prevented by the management of Walpole. She was the youngest daughter of Charles, Earl of Sunderland, by Lady Anne Churchill, daughter of the great Duke of Marlborough. By this lady he had an infant son, which died on the day of its birth, a misfortune enhanced by the death of its mother, 27th September, 1735. In April, 1737, he married, as his second wife, Gertrude, daughter of John, first Earl Gower. The result was the birth of a son, Francis, Marquis of Tavistock, 26th September, 1739; a daughter, Caroline, born in January, 1742-3; and another son who died in infancy.

The duke's private life furnishes scanty materials for biography. The tendency of his political opinions was shown by the part he took against Sir Robert Walpole in 1742; but it was not till 1744 that he engaged in the public business of the country. In the latter year the government of Lord Granville had become so unpopular, that he was compelled to resign. A new ministry known in history by the name of the Broad-bottom Administration, given to it in derision, succeeded, in which the Duke of Bedford was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, and was sworn of the Privy Council. On the King's visit to his German dominions in 1745, the duke was nominated one of the Lords Justices during his absence. In the latter part of that year, and while George II. was still abroad, the Pretender, Charles Edward, made his rash attempt to recover the crown by landing in Scotland. The duke, who was Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Bedford, was the first of the English nobility who raised, at his own cost, a regiment of foot for the defence of the country, an example that was followed with alacrity, and greatly con-



tributed to suppress the rebellion. Although attached, however, to the established government, he opposed, in the House of Lords, a proposition for extending the penalties of high treason to the posterity of persons convicted of corresponding with the sons of the Pretender. In an able speech, he introduced a touching allusion to the melancholy history of his own family. "Your lordships," he said, "cannot be surprised that I am alarmed at the proposal of a law like this; I, whose family has suffered so lately the deprivation of its rank and fortune by the tyranny of a court; I, whose grandfather was cut off by an unjust prosecution, and whose father was condemned, for many years, to see himself deprived of the rights of his birth, which were at length restored to him by more equitable judges. It is surely reasonable, my lords, that I should oppose the extension of penalties to the descendants of offenders, who have scarce myself escaped the blast of an attainder."

With the exception of some temporary changes, the ministry of which the Duke of Bedford was a member, continued until the conclusion of the peace in 1748.\* On the 19th of February, in that year, he exchanged his situation at the Admiralty for the office of secretary of state for the northern department. His discharge of this office gave rise to dissensions between himself and the Duke of Newcastle, who could "bear, like the Turk, no brother near the throne." The Duke of Bedford complained that his colleague engrossed to himself the whole management of the affairs of their office, and that his demeanour was haughty and cold—manners so repugnant to his own temper, which was open and frank in a re-

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\* See Appendix, Note I.

markable degree, that he looked upon them as personal affronts. The Duke of Newcastle, on the other hand, alleged that the official affairs which should have been transacted by the Duke of Bedford were neglected; that his fondness for trivial amusements and rural sports, the carelessness, and sometimes the obstinacy of his disposition, rendered him negligent of his duties, and impracticable in business. The Duke of Bedford's dislike of his colleague increased daily, and he gave proof of it by attaching himself to the Duke of Cumberland and the Princess Amelia, neither of whom were favourable to the Duke of Newcastle. The latter accordingly determined to get rid of so uncongenial a companion as his brother duke. The death of the Prince of Wales in 1751, by dividing the opposition, enabled the Pelhams to effect this and other plans they had formed for strengthening their power. In June, 1751, Lord Sandwich was removed, the same fate befell other friends of the duke, and he perceived that his own dismissal was resolved on. On the following day he repaired to the king at Kensington, and resigned the seals into his majesty's own hands. In the interview which took place on this occasion, the duke spoke warmly above an hour, and is said to have expressed his resentment and indignation at the conduct of the Pelhams in terms which went far beyond the bounds of ordinary etiquette. He inveighed bitterly against his late colleague in particular, whom he accused of haughtiness and treachery, and enlarged upon the good qualities of Lord Sandwich and others, who had been displaced by the Duke of Newcastle, with a view of securing to himself and his brother all the offices and power of state. The king received these expostulations with great mildness; acknowledged the sense he entertained

of the attachment which the duke had always evinced for his brother, the Duke of Cumberland, and ended by pressing on him the post of master of the horse, which his grace declined to accept.

From this period the Duke of Bedford was to be reckoned as the leader of a division of the opposition, and took a strong part in the discussions respecting the education of the heir to the crown; and he was concerned in the circulation of that anonymous "Memorial" drawn up by Horace Walpole, purporting to be "signed by several noblemen and gentlemen of fortune," in which the charge of Jacobitism, and intended treason, was distinctly brought against the persons who were entrusted with the education of the future king. On a partial change of ministry, at the end of the year 1756, the Duke of Bedford was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland. This was, perhaps, of all his public employments, that for which his character and habits best fitted him. He possessed an uncommon share of firmness, which his enemies called obstinacy; and as he was besides fond of splendour and display, and was of a frank, convivial disposition, his administration was at once useful and popular in a country proverbially famed for hospitality, and which had long suffered under a deficient and mischievous system of evil government. The Irish court, during the time he presided over it, presented an appearance of gaiety and content to which it had long been unused. During the period of the duke's government in Ireland, Thurot, a French pirate, who had been favoured by the court of Versailles, and whose depredations had rendered him formidable to the British merchant shipping, ventured, in the course of one of his excursions, to land at Carrickfergus; and the commandant of the place was



compelled, after a short but gallant defence, to capitulate. The triumph of the French adventurer was, however, as fleeting as it had been accidental. The militia was called out, and he was compelled to re-embark, in order to escape their vengeance. He was encountered in his retreat, near the Isle of Man, by Captain Elliott, of the *Æolus*, and two other frigates; and after a desperate conflict Thurot was killed, and his three ships taken.

In 1761 Lord Halifax succeeded the Duke of Bedford in the government of Ireland, and his grace was appointed keeper of the privy seal. When, in 1762, the treaty of peace with France had been agreed to, the duke was commissioned as minister plenipotentiary to the court of Versailles, for the purpose of concluding and signing the preliminaries. The terms upon which this peace was concluded excited loud and bitter animadversions in England. Charges of corruption were liberally heaped against Lord Bute, who had planned, and the Duke of Bedford, who had been the instrument of concluding it. In April, 1763, Lord Bute retired, and the Granville administration was formed, in which the Duke of Bedford held the post of president of the council. A period of two years sufficed to make this ministry, which had never been very popular, generally obnoxious. The silk trade had declined since the peace; and this misfortune was ascribed to the measures of the existing government, the members of which were pointed out as victims for the popular fury. On the 15th May, 1765, on his return from Westminster to Bedford House, the duke was waylaid by an insurgent mob, and narrowly escaped destruction, being assailed, as his carriage passed through Bloomsbury, by a tempest of stones, one of which, of massive size, would undoubtedly



have proved fatal, had not the gentleman who accompanied him parried the blow. On the following day their number was augmented to 8000, and the guards were ordered out. On the evening of the 17th, they assaulted Bedford House, and began the work of destruction by pulling down the outer walls; whilst another party surrounded the garden, where there were but fifty men on guard. In the midst of this danger, the duke remained perfectly collected and serene, and was with difficulty restrained from issuing into the square to harangue the infuriated mob. They had nearly forced their way to the house when another party of guards arrived, and dispersed them without loss of life.

The opposition of the ministers to the regency bill had estranged from them the king's favour; and at length, in an interview with his majesty, the duke respectfully but firmly pressed home upon the monarch the injurious tendency of those vacillations which had been apparent in his conduct.\* The ministry, however, was dissolved, and was succeeded by the Rockingham administration, which shortly after was displaced by that of Lord Chatham; and although the duke was more than once on the point of coalescing with the latter, the negotiations were broken off. In June, 1767, the Duke of Grafton's solicitations induced the Bedford party to separate from their friends; and on that occasion the duke resumed his presidency of the privy council, which he held until his death in 1771. Throughout the whole of 1770 he had been seriously indisposed; but although his strength gradually declined, he was able, up to the 4th January, 1771, to attend to his usual routine of business, and on the evening of the 15th

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\* See Appendix, Note J.

of that month, says Mr. Wiffen, his biographer, "the frank, the generous, the impetuous, the long powerful, the much calumniated John, Duke of Bedford, had ceased to breathe,—leaving the memory of his services and virtues for his posterity to cherish; and the vestiges of his errors for his opponents and his country to forgive."

In March, 1767, the duke received a severe shock in the accident that happened to his only son, the Marquis of Tavistock. This young man, whose habits of life were retired and domestic, after leaving the University of Cambridge, devoted his energies to the levies of his native county, the militia bill having then just passed. He accompanied his father to Ireland in 1759, and took a part of some activity in the Irish House of Commons. He afterwards went upon his travels, and sought out, for the cultivation of his taste in the fine arts, the cities, monasteries, palaces, and churches, where the best works of the great masters in architecture, painting, and sculpture, were erected or deposited. These he examined with critical minuteness, and recorded his remarks in notes which evince the possession of an accurate eye, a refined taste, and a most solid judgment, very remarkable in one so young. At home he was the intimate friend and companion of our great artist, Sir Joshua Reynolds. On his return, in 1762, he sat in parliament for his native county, and moved and presented an address of congratulation to the queen on the birth of a prince. He afterwards wrote to his friend and cousin, Lord Ossory, a series of interesting letters, to direct him in his foreign travels. In 1764 he visited Paris, where his virtues and his accomplishments won for him from the gay literary society of that capital an attachment repeatedly glanced at in the private corres-

pondence of Hume, the historian, who was there as secretary to the embassy of Lord Hertford. He married, on his return in June, 1764, Lady Elizabeth Keppel, daughter of William Anne, second Earl of Albemarle, who, to a sweetness of disposition peculiarly her own, joined all those mild and unaffected virtues which tend to perpetuate the charm first given by personal grace and innate dignity of character. With this amiable lady Lord Tavistock attained a happiness which, in his own language, he scarcely dared to avow, and to which time only imparted additional lustre and sereneness. He now devoted his chief attention to agricultural pursuits, and the sports of the field; having taken a farm into his own hands, adjoining his residence, Houghton House, near Ampthill. On the 9th March, 1767, while only in his twenty-eighth year, the marquis, whose passion for hunting had continued to increase, had a fall from his horse, by which his skull was fractured. Professional aid being called in, a difficult operation was successfully performed, and after four days hopes were entertained of his recovery. But the gleam, unhappily, was of short duration; and on the 23rd of the same month, a life of very extraordinary promise was prematurely closed; but not, says Lord Orford, "until much honour, generosity, and every amiable virtue, had shone through the veil of natural modesty, that no young man of quality since the Earl of Ossory, son of the Duke of Ormond, had inspired fonder hopes, attracted higher esteem, or died so universally lamented." The full extent of this terrible accident was considerately kept from Lady Tavistock till further concealment was impossible. Amid the anguish that followed she gave birth to a posthumous infant on the 29th August, when she gave herself up to



inconsolable sorrow. A deep decline succeeded, under which she lingered for a year, when, as a last resource, a voyage to Lisbon was agreed to. Whilst preparations were making for this object, an affecting incident occurred. At a consultation of the faculty held at Bedford House, in August, one of the physicians, whilst he felt her pulse, requested her to open her hand. Her reluctance induced him to use a degree of gentle violence, when he perceived that she had closed it to conceal a miniature of her late husband. "Ah, madam," he exclaimed, "all our prescriptions must be useless whilst you so fatally cherish the wasting sorrow that destroys you!" "I have kept it," she replied, "either in my bosom or my hand, ever since my dear lord's death; and thus I must indeed continue to retain it, until I drop off after him into the welcome grave." The physician sighed as he resigned her hand; the frigate, commanded by her brother, Captain Keppel, departed to its destined climate, and on the 2nd of October she expired. Being thus cut off by her pining grief, in the bloom of youth and beauty, she left three orphans to the guardianship of the Duke of Bedford—Francis, John, and William.

It is natural to suppose that the Duke of Bedford must have been deeply affected by these fearful events. The letters of his children evince that he was one of the fondest fathers, but he had great fortitude and firmness; and being urged by his friends to divert his thoughts by public business, he soon recovered his equanimity—a result which was generally ascribed to want of sensibility. "Some," says Hume, "even reproached the duke with being too easily comforted; but it proceeded from the ardency of his temper, which always takes itself to the present object



without reserve.”\* The character of the Duke of Bedford, indeed, is a subject which has been represented in the most opposite lights. The important stations which he filled during almost the whole period of his public life, exposed him to the animadversions of the organs of those by whom he was opposed, and of these the most brilliant and severe was the unknown writer of the *Letters of Junius*. If we are to place implicit reliance upon the crushing diatribes of that most formidable of assailants, the duke was a monster who disgraced humanity, combining in himself every personal and political vice for which a name has yet been found. The attacks of *Junius* were commenced in the twenty-third letter of the collected series, and are reiterated in several of those which immediately succeed. To these we must refer such of our readers as desire further information on this much vexed question. Mr. Wiffen, on the other hand, in his admirable “Memoirs of the House of Russell”—to which we have been greatly indebted in our notices of the family—has been at great pains to collect “testimonials to character” from the duke’s contemporaries, which are briefly summed up in the sentence we have quoted above. Our own impression is, after a careful perusal of the history of his life, that the duke, like the rest of us, possessed a mixed character, in which virtues and failings were perhaps equally commingled; and that *Junius* has been led by the demon of party zeal to suppress his good qualities and exaggerate his faults.

FRANCIS, FIFTH DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Francis, eldest son of the Marquis of Tavistock, succeeded his grandfather, as fifth Duke of Bedford in 1771, when but

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\* See Appendix, Note K.

six years old, having been born 23d July, 1765. After receiving the rudiments of his education at Loughborough House, near London, he spent a few years at Westminster School, whence he was removed too early for the full cultivation of his talents, and entered at Cambridge in 1780. The greater part of the years 1784 and 1785, he spent in foreign travel, and returned from the continent in August, 1786, a few weeks after he had attained his majority. Inheriting almost with his blood, the principles by which his ancestors were guided, he attached himself to the party of which Mr. Fox was one of the chief ornaments. As his character matured, his political friends who admired his unostentatious virtues, saw, at the same time, in his clear judgment and fervent power of expression, in his abhorrence of all that was little and ungenerous, in his love of country, and his pure but regulated attachment to constitutional liberty, sure preludes of usefulness and distinction in the arena of parliamentary debate. The desire which he felt, however, to assist his party, in their opposition to measures that threatened to undermine the fabric of the national freedom, was for a long time repressed by extreme diffidence; but the spell which thus enthralled his faculties in silence was broken, in a moment of enthusiasm, by a glow of vivid indignation; and the ability with which he repelled some imputations that had been cast upon himself and his political friends, at once surprised him into a confidence of his own powers, and laid the basis of that reputation which as a public speaker he afterwards acquired. It was not, however, till the year 1794, that the Duke of Bedford took a prominent part in the discussions in parliament. The Duke of Portland's administration had been succeeded by that of Mr. Pitt; but the remnant of the

Rockingham party, of which the Duke of Portland was the chief, disagreeing with the Whigs in the extent of their views, a gradual estrangement ensued, and the Duke of Portland finally accepted office under Mr. Pitt, carrying with him from the opposition Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr. Windham, Earl Spencer, and many other persons of rank and character, for whom the Duke of Bedford had the highest personal esteem. He was himself pressed in the strongest manner by the Duke of Portland to take part in the new arrangement, and consented to attend a meeting at which the overtures were to be considered; but understanding at the outset that Mr. Fox had not been invited, he instantly left the apartment, declaring, that in that case he was quite sure the Duke of Bedford had no business there. He became henceforth one of the principal advocates in the House of Lords for all those various measures which Mr. Fox and Mr. Grey brought forward in the Commons, for terminating the war with France, for tranquillising Ireland, for removing the severe restrictions that were placed on the liberty of the subject, for extending timely justice and conciliation to the Catholic population, and for effecting that reform in the representation of the people, which he conceived to be absolutely necessary "to infuse new vigour into the constitution, to control the overgrown influence of the crown, to check the power of the aristocracy, and that enormous influence which the minister had derived from the creation of peers, when peers were sent into the House of Lords by dozens"—a reform, without which he was entirely convinced that the country could never be placed on a good footing; and hence he solemnly pledged himself before parliament never to take a share in any administration with which it did not form a leading object.



In the session of parliament in 1795, the duke opened the debates in the House of Lords, with a motion that the form of government prevailing in France should not either preclude a negotiation or prevent a peace on honourable terms. The motion was discussed with great spirit and ability, but led to no results. He censured with unwonted asperity the recall of Earl Fitzwilliam from Ireland, and urged the necessity of his return thither with conciliatory instructions as the only means of averting the frightful evils which speedily succeeded. He strongly opposed the bills against treasonable practices and seditious meetings, as extensions of the criminal law already sufficiently remorseless, and as inconsistent with the English constitution; and he equally resisted the continued suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, though anxious that the existing laws for the repression of tumult and sedition should be duly enforced. It was in the heat of debate on these coercive acts, that the Earl of Lauderdale indulged in those reflections on the pension recently granted to Mr. Burke, which led to the production of his celebrated "Letter to a Noble Lord," to which we have before alluded, and in which he so fiercely attacked the memory of the first Earl of Bedford. In the subsequent sessions, the duke continued opposition to the system of Mr. Pitt, whose pernicious policy had, as he conceived, inflicted such disastrous evils on the country. He even moved an address to the crown for his dismissal from office, broadly declaring "that his object was to chase corruption from senates, and despotic principles from the councils of kings." After recapitulating, in a long and able speech, all the grounds of his dissatisfaction, he declared that if unsuccessful in his endeavours for his country's good, there was



nothing left for him but to retire, and transfer his efforts to a more tranquil and restricted sphere. On the motion being negatived, he entered a protest on the journals and seceded for a season from the political world, to stimulate his countrymen in that beneficial career of agricultural improvement in which he had already embarked. The triumphs which he achieved in this wide field of enterprise, the extent of his farm establishments, and the unbounded hospitality of his annual exhibitions are matters of general notoriety. To this cause he devoted no mean portion of his immense income. The ardour with which he encouraged all experiments for improvement in soil, in tillage, in the breeding of cattle, in irrigation, and in agricultural implements, has connected his name indissolubly with the annals of that science, one of the surest sources of a nation's wealth. From his enterprise, in concert with others, arose the Board of Agriculture. His annual sheep-shearings at Woburn, which was then regarded as the seat of rural science, frequented as they were not only by nobility, gentry, farmers, and graziers from all parts of the three kingdoms, but from many countries of Europe and from America, gave a new feature to the aspect of pastoral economy, and a fresh and powerful impulse in its progress towards perfection.

While pursuing, however, these pleasing duties, he returned occasionally to his place in parliament. In 1798 he again moved for a change of ministers, and an alteration of the system of government in Ireland; and in 1800 he proposed a counter-address to the king on his message relative to the rejected overtures of peace from the consular government of France. The earnest and energetic speech which he delivered on this occasion was one of the last

great efforts, which he made in parliament. He had the gratification, however, to see a momentary accomplishment of his patriotic designs; and after the retirement of Mr. Pitt in 1801, on the ratification of the preliminaries of peace with the French republic, by Mr. Addington's administration, he frequently expressed his joy. He did not live to witness the brief duration of the peace and the hasty renewal of hostilities. An inflammation of the bowels, brought on by the casual exasperation of a complaint with which he had been afflicted from his early youth, suddenly threatened the termination of his life.\* To the excruciating operation prescribed by his physicians, he submitted with equanimity, and sustained it with the most unshaken fortitude, but every effort of art proved unsuccessful; and after making the most considerate arrangements for the happiness and comfort of those who were to survive him, he died at the age of thirty-seven, on the 2d March, 1802. "Dignified without pride, magnificent without ostentation, and generous without profusion; of unsullied integrity, and a benevolence unwearied in its exercise, the tidings of his dissolution gave a shock to the whole nation." Thus writes Mr. Lodge, from whose memoir, chiefly, we have abridged this notice. The duke having died unmarried, his family honours and great estates descended to his brother, Lord John Russell, at that time member of parliament for Tavistock. On moving for a new writ for that borough, Mr. Fox took occasion to pronounce a beautiful and just eulogium on the character of the friend whom he had lost—"not," as he declared, "for the purpose of fondly strewing flowers upon his tomb, but that that great character might be

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\* See Appendix, Note L.

strongly impressed upon the minds of all who heard him ; that they might see it ; that they might feel it ; that they might discourse of it in their domestic circles ; that they might speak of it to their children, and hold it up to the imitation of posterity." The character of the duke is thus ably summed up in *Burke's Peerage* :—"Rejecting the wild theories which, in his day, endangered the sacred cause of freedom, the Duke of Bedford stood forward the hereditary champion of the constitution, prepared with equal fearlessness to repel the assaults of anarchy or of despotism. In private life his grace's deportment was so mild, benevolent, and courteous, that his friends, amongst the most devoted of whom was Charles James Fox, adhered to him with more than ordinary feelings of attachment—their affection amounted to enthusiasm."

JOHN, SIXTH DUKE OF BEDFORD.

John, sixth duke, was born 6th July, 1766 ; and on 21st March, 1786, married Georgina Elizabeth Byng, second daughter of George, fourth Viscount Torrington, minister plenipotentiary to the court of Brussels. He entered parliament in 1788, as member for Tavistock, which borough he represented until the decease of the late duke. In 1802, he took his seat in the House of Lords ; and in March, 1806, was sworn at Dublin Castle Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. In the following year, on the breaking up of Lord Grenville's administration, he was recalled from that station by the succeeding government. By the above lady, who died 11th October, 1801, he had three sons.—1. Francis, present duke.—2. George William, born 8th May, 1790, a major-general in the army, G.C.B., and aide-de-camp unattached to the queen. He began his military career at the siege of Copenhagen in 1807, as aide-de-camp to



Earl Ludlow, and served during nearly the whole of the Peninsular War on the staffs of Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington and General Lord Lynedoch. He sat from 1812 to 1830, in four successive parliaments, for the town and borough of Bedford, and was for some time envoy-extraordinary and minister-plenipotentiary at the court of Berlin. He married 21st June, 1817, Elizabeth Anne, only child of the late Hon. John Theophilus Rawdon, and has three sons, the oldest of whom is in the Scots Fusilier Guards.—3. John, the present prime minister of the British empire. The duke married, secondly, 23d June, 1803, Lady Georgiana Gordon, fifth daughter of Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, by whom he has had a family of nine sons and three daughters. Two of the sons died in infancy; the rest of the family survive. His grace died 20th October, 1839.

FRANCIS, SEVENTH AND PRESENT DUKE.

The present duke was born 13th May, 1788, and is now in his sixtieth year. In 1812 he was chosen a knight of the shire for the county of Bedford, which he represented also in the four succeeding parliaments. On 11th December, 1832, he was called to the House of Peers, by the title of Baron Howland of Streatham. He married 8th August, 1808, Lady Anna Maria Stanhope, eldest daughter of Charles, third Earl of Harrington. He has one son, William, Marquis of Tavistock, born 30th June, 1809.

The arms of the House of Bedford contain a lion rampant, with a lion and an antelope for supporters, and a goat for a crest. The motto is *Che sara, sara*—"What will be, will be." And the family seats are Woburn Abbey,\* Bedfordshire, and Endsleigh, Devon.

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\* See Appendix, Note M.



## LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

Lord John Russell was born in London on the 18th of August, 1792, and is now, consequently, in his fifty-sixth year. He was educated at Westminster, but completed his education at the University of Edinburgh. He was scarcely twenty-one when brought into parliament for his father's borough of Tavistock, in July, 1813. In November of that year he first spoke in the House of Commons, in condemnation of the cession of Norway to Sweden. In 1815 he took a decided part in condemning the renewal of war with France, on Napoleon's return from Elba. In this year, also, he made his first appearance as an author, by the publication of his life of his illustrious ancestor, William, Lord Russell.

In 1816 and 1817 he took part in the debates, but found his health so much impaired that he retired from parliament.

He was again returned for Tavistock in January, 1819, and at the close of that year he proposed his scheme of parliamentary reform. The resolutions with which he closed his speech, were confined to the disfranchising of boroughs, in which corruption should be found to exist, and to the extension of the franchise to the great unrepresented towns. These resolutions he withdrew, on Lord Castle-reagh's expressing his readiness to disfranchise the borough of Grampound, of which the entire and profligate corruption had very recently been proved before an Election Committee of the House of Commons.

In 1820 Lord John was returned for the county of Huntingdon. In 1821 he introduced his bill for transferring the franchise of Grampound to Leeds, but the amendments introduced so altered it, that Lord John abandoned the bill, which was then taken up, and carried through the

L. of C.

House of Commons by the present Lord Wharncliffe, then Mr. Stuart Wortley. In the House of Lords, the addition of two members to the county of York, was substituted for the enfranchisement of Leeds; and in this shape the bill passed.—In this year his lordship published his “History of the British Constitution;” and, in the subsequent year, he gave to the world a tragedy, on the subject of the unfortunate Don Carlos, which evinced generous political sentiments, rather than poetical imagination.

In 1822 he brought forward the question of reform in a simple resolution, that the state of the representation required the serious consideration of the house. The speech in which he introduced this, was of a higher order than any by which he had as yet supported his views, and contained a valuable exposition of that increased national intelligence and wealth, on which he grounded his arguments, for the expediency of an extension of popular rights. This motion was negatived by 219 to 164. In the next year he proposed the same motion, which was defeated by 280 to 169. In 1824 he did not moot the question of reform: and confined his parliamentary exertions to a motion on the subject of the occupation of Spain by the French army. In this year he published the most valuable and interesting, as well as the last of his literary productions, being the first quarto volume of “A History of Europe, since the Peace of Utrecht.” In 1825 he took no active part in the House of Commons: though in this, as in former years, he is found generally supporting the various useful motions, by which the opposition of that day, with little immediate success, gave a finally triumphant impulse to liberal views of government.

In 1826 Lord John renewed his motion for parliamentary

reform, which was negatived by 247 to 123. At the close of that session he obtained a slight advantage by carrying, by the casting vote of the speaker, resolutions extending the time for petitioning in cases of general bribery alleged against a borough. He took part also in the debates on the corn laws, and expressed himself favourable to a consideration of the expediency of amending them. At the general election of 1826 he was defeated in the county of Huntingdon, and compelled to enter parliament for the borough of Bandon-bridge in Ireland.

In the year 1827 Lord John Russell gave his support to the liberal ministry of Mr. Canning. He declined renewing his motion for parliamentary reform, partly because he did not wish to bring that ministry into collision with his new supporters, and partly, as he stated, because he found a growing apathy on the question pervading not only the Whig party, but the whole public. He also postponed, at the request of the Committee of the Dissenters, a motion, of which he had previously given notice, for the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. The triumph, however, of this great measure was only reserved for the coming session, when his lordship, on the 28th of February, defeated the Wellington ministry by a vote of 237 to 193, on the question of leave to bring in a bill for the repeal of those acts. The ministry, after this defeat, abandoned all opposition to the measure, and with some alterations the bill passed both houses, and removed the political disqualifications of the Protestant Dissenters of the empire.

A strong and unqualified attachment to religious liberty had always been a distinguished feature of Lord John Russell's character; and at this period the great cause, which he had at heart, advanced in a career of continued

triumphs. In the year which followed the Restoration of the rights of Protestant Dissenters, the emancipation of the Catholics was extorted from the very ministry, which had been borne into power on the principle of opposition to their just claims. In the next year his lordship supported a bill for the emancipation of the Jews, to which the result of one division in the House of Commons appeared to promise success. A second division, however, proved fatal to it; and this portion of an ancient code of causeless intolerance still disgraces our constitution, although probably on the eve of being for ever swept away.

The debates on the East Retford bill at the same time brought into prominent importance the yet greater question of parliamentary reform, which had previously been the chief subject of Lord John's labours. In 1829 and 1830 the topic was brought before the public in various forms. In the latter year Lord John opposed Mr. O'Connell's motion for triennial parliaments, vote by ballot, and universal suffrage. A much less extensive motion of his own mustered only 117 against 213 votes. But the debates of these two sessions had produced an effect on the public mind, which the French revolution of the three days converted into a steady and general demand for parliamentary reform. And in November, 1830, Lord John Russell, for the first time, accepted office, and became a member of a ministry pledged to carry into effect the great principle of parliamentary reform. The state of his health is supposed to have been the cause of his not being taken into the cabinet, and of his being contented with the easy and honourable, but unimportant office of paymaster of the forces. In this office, however, it was that, in consideration of the lead which he had always taken on the



question, he was entrusted by Lord Grey with the honourable duty of introducing the reform bill, the conduct of which he continued to take in its subsequent eventful history. Through this contest we shall not follow Lord John. At the general election of 1831 he was returned without opposition for the great county of Devon; and in 1832 he was admitted into the cabinet, without, however, quitting his office of paymaster of the forces, which he continued to hold throughout the administration of Lord Grey.

The debates on the Irish coercion bill, and the declarations elicited from many members of parliament respecting the causes of disturbance in Ireland, had directed public attention to the great abuse of the Irish church establishment: and Mr. Ward's notice of a motion upon the subject had rendered it obvious that the session of 1834 could not pass without some declaration of the views of the government on this great question. Warm discussions are supposed to have arisen on the subject in Lord Grey's cabinet; and Lord John Russell is said to have taken the most active and determined part in insisting that the government should at once and thoroughly take the course of justice and true policy, by reducing the disproportioned Protestant establishment of Ireland. It is well known that the result was the declaration of sound views on the part of the government, even while it opposed Mr. Ward's motion; and the public generally looked with gratitude to Lord John Russell as the main agent in this improvement of the spirit of the ministry, as well as the withdrawal of that illiberal portion of it, which soon afterwards joined the Tories, under Lord Stanley and Sir James Graham.

On the death of Lord Spencer, and the consequent removal of Lord Althorp to the House of Lords, the talent

and influence of Lord John Russell pointed him out as his successor in the lead of the House of Commons: and it is supposed that this formed part of the arrangements, which Lord Melbourne had to communicate to the king, when he was met by the abrupt announcement, of the king's determination to change his ministry. Lord John Russell, in consequence, resigned with the rest of his colleagues, and instead of acting as the ministerial leader in the Commons, he found imposed on him the yet more arduous task of conducting the angry, extensive, and somewhat divided opposition, which was speedily arrayed against the ministry of Sir Robert Peel. On this great enterprise his lordship entered in the month of January, 1835, immediately after the termination of the general election, by a letter requesting the attendance of all those, on whose support he relied in opposition, on the day of the meeting of parliament, in order to vote for Mr. Abercrombie as speaker. After the success of this arduous struggle, the opposition carried an amendment to the address, in answer to the king's speech, and inflicted repeated defeats on the ministry in the course of various discussions and divisions in the ensuing month.

The success of the opposition may be in a great measure ascribed to the admirable skill of its leader. Backed by a decided popular feeling, but commanding a slender majority in the House of Commons, and opposed by the King, the House of Lords, and the great influence of the church and aristocracy, it was necessary for Lord John to exhibit the utmost prudence in choosing the course, and conducting the details of his opposition. The general sense entertained of the skill with which he achieved it, was marked by the great dinner given to him at the Freemasons

tavern, in the early part of the year 1839, at which a majority of the members of the House of Commons attended to do him honour.

It was on the 30th of March, 1835, that he introduced his famous resolutions respecting the propriety of applying the surplus revenues of the Irish church to the education of the people. This motion being carried by a majority of thirty-three—322 to 289, it was followed up by two successive motions, which pledged the House of Commons to agree to no settlement of the Irish tithes, except on the principle of appropriating the surplus revenue in the manner above specified, and which formally communicated this resolution to his Majesty. These being carried by majorities of twenty-five and twenty-seven, Sir Robert Peel resigned; and on Lord Melbourne's again being entrusted with the formation of a ministry, Lord John became secretary of state for the Home Department, and leader of the House of Commons. The former office he discharged with great credit to his assiduity and judgment for about four years, when he exchanged it for the Colonial Department.

Lord John's acceptance of office, having vacated his seat for Devonshire, the Tory party strained every nerve to prevent his re-election; and such was their strength that, after a struggle of great warmth, their candidate, a country gentleman, of the name of Parker, was returned by a majority of 627. Lord John was immediately returned to parliament for the large and opulent town of Stroud.

An event of a yet happier nature marked this important period of Lord John Russell's life. On the 11th of April, 1835, his marriage to Adelaide, widow of Lord Ribblesdale, appeared to promise him domestic happiness, in addition



to the political eminence and fame which he had attained. But he was destined to enjoy but for a brief period the continuance of this happy tie. The lamented death of this lady in November, 1838, extinguished his hopes of domestic happiness, and in the hour of his greatest political anxieties overwhelmed him with the severest of afflictions. In 1841 he formed another matrimonial connexion with Lady Frances Anna Maria Elliot, second daughter of the Earl of Minto. By his first lady he has two daughters, and by his second, a son born in Dec., 1842.

At the dissolution of parliament in 1841, Lord John was returned for the city of London, which he has since continued to represent. As the character of our notices is rather historical than critical, we shall not enter into any farther disquisition on the history and character of our noble premier. To the great majority of our readers, indeed, these must be as well known as to ourselves. We cannot, however, close our history of the House of Russell without remarking on the gratifying fact, that no deterioration is to be found in the progress of this noble family from the time of its founder, the first earl, to the present day. On the contrary, if we may use an Iricism, they rise as they descend. Instead of degenerating into the mere

“Tenth transmitters of a foolish face,”

the Russells have become, by a progress ever brightening, more and more illustrious as statesmen, philosophers, and patriots; and it is worthy of remark, that the youngest scion of this noble race has attained an eminence both of station and renown, which surpasses, though it cannot shade, the greatness achieved by the most distinguished of his ancestors.



## APPENDIX.

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### *Note A, page 9.*—"THE SPITTLE."

James himself (Works, p. 301) thus alludes to this portion of the ceremony: "As for the queen my mother, of worthy memorie, although she continued in that religion wherein she was nourished, yet was she so far from being superstitious or jesuited therein, that at my baptisme (although I was baptised by a Popish archbishop) she sent him worde to forbear to use the spettle in my baptisme; which was obeyed, being indeed a filthy and apish tricke, rather in scorn than imitation of Christ. And her own very words were, 'That she would not have a pockie priest to spit in her child's mouth.'"

### *Note B, p. 13.*—MAIDS OF HONOUR.

The office of a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth was not at all times an enviable employment. Some curious tokens of her capricious peevishness are furnished in the gossip of that day. "The queen," says Sir Rowland Whyte to Sir Robert Sidney, "hath of late used the fair Miss Brydges (daughter of the Lord Chandos) with words and *blows* of anger;" and she, with Miss Russell, were put out of the coffer-chamber, lying three nights at Lady Stafford's before they could return to their wonted waiting, for the unpalatable offence of taking medicine, and going through the private galleries to see the lords and gentlemen play at the *ballon*.

### *Note C, p. 24.*—THE "COUNTESS PILLAR."

On the Roman road, called the Maiden way, between Penrith and Appleby, are to be found the remains of a stately obelisk, known by the name of the "Countess's Pillar," and bearing this inscription:—"This pillar was erected in the year 1656 by Anne Countess Dowager of Pembroke, &c., for a memorial of her last parting in this place, with her good and pious mother, Margaret, Countess Dowager of Cumberland, on the 2d of April, 1616; in memory whereof she hath left an annuity of £4 to be distributed to the poor of the parish of Brougham, every 2d day of April for ever, upon the stone table placed hard by. *Laus Deo!*" Rogers, in his *Pleasures of Memory*, thus beautifully commemorates "the silent sorrows of that parting hour:"—

Hast thou through Eden's wild-wood vales pursued \*  
Each mountain-scene, majestically rude;  
To note the sweet simplicity of life,  
Far from the din of Folly's idle strife;  
Nor there awhile, with lifted eye, revered  
That modest stone which pious Pembroke rear'd;  
Which still records, beyond the pencil's power,  
The silent sorrows of a parting hour;  
Still to the musing pilgrim points the place  
Her sainted spirit most delights to trace?

\* The Eden is the principal river of Cumberland, and rises in the wildest part of Westmoreland.

*Note D, p. 31.—MOOR PARK, HERTS.*

Mr. Burke, in his *Historic Lands*, after giving the prior history of Moor Park, adds—"The manor with the park was afterwards assigned by Queen Elizabeth to Francis Russell, second Earl of Bedford, and here the Russell family resided for some time, The first house upon this beautiful demesne of which we have any historical account, was inhabited by Lucy, Countess Dowager of Bedford, widow of Edward, third earl, and sister and co-heir of John, second Lord Harrington, a lady equally celebrated for her learning and extravagance, and a distinguished patroness of the most celebrated men of her time. Her ladyship laid out the gardens that attracted the admiration of Sir William Temple, and was the first to render this famous spot a point of general attraction. She did not, however, very long retain possession of an estate she had so greatly adorned, for in 1626, it passed by sale to William, Earl of Pembroke, by whom the house and park were severed from the manor, and sold to Robert Cary, Earl of Monmouth." It is worthy of remark that Sir William Temple himself occupied, during the last years of his life, another seat called "Moor Park," near Farnham, in Surrey.

*Note E, p. 33.—FIRST LORD BROOKE.*

Fulke Greville, first Lord Brooke, was one of the chief ornaments of Elizabeth's court, and stood among the foremost of those who were graced by her smiles. His character united to most of the talents of a statesman the easy gaiety and refined eloquence of a courtier. He was a good scholar, loved polite literature, delighted in composition, in which he employed his pen to a vast extent, and was a liberal patron to men of genius and learning. He was born in 1554, being the only son of Sir Fulke Greville, and Anne, daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland. He was educated in a school, then of considerable fame, in the town of Shrewsbury, where he was placed with his relation, the incomparable Sir Philip Sidney, the darling companion of his youth, and the idol of his more mature friendship. After completing his education at Oxford, he went upon his travels, and on his return was introduced at court. We cannot minutely follow his career. The ancient castle of Warwick was bestowed upon him by James I., under whom he filled various offices of state. In 1620, he was created a baron, by the title of Lord Brooke, with remainder to his cousin Robert Greville, whom he had adopted, as mentioned in the text. He had reached his 74th year, when he was murdered, in his residence of Brooke-house, in Holborn, by a gentleman domestic, whom he had retained for many years in his service. The assassin, Ralph Heywood, who was alone with him in his bed-chamber, stabbed him in the back; rushed instantly into another apartment and destroyed himself. This horrid act has been variously accounted for, but was probably the result of sudden frenzy. The noble sufferer survived a few days, and, dying 30th September, 1628, was buried in the great church of Warwick, under a monument which he had some

years before erected, with the well-known inscription, "Fulke Greville, Servant to Queen Elizabeth; Councillor to King James; and Friend to Sir Philip Sidney. *Trophæum peccati*." He was never married.

*Note F, p. 38.*—SECOND LORD BROOKE.

Robert Greville, second Lord Brooke, was one of those whom the troubles of the country induced to contemplate emigration to America. He, with Lord Say and others, purchased therefore from Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, an extensive tract of land in New England, which had been granted to him by the crown, and in 1635 despatched thither an agent, of the name of Fenwick, with powers and instructions to found a settlement, which succeeded so well that a town was presently built, and called, after their joint names, Saybrooke. The course of events, however, induced them to abandon their intention. Lord Brooke ultimately became the leader of the popular party in the House of Lords, possessing as he did their entire confidence. When the king at length resorted to arms, he was one of the first to oppose the royal cause in the field. He put his castle of Warwick in a state of defence, and in a hot skirmish compelled the Earl of Northampton to raise the siege of that fortress. He was engaged, under the Earl of Essex, in the battle of Edgehill, where his regiment eminently distinguished itself. After the battle, Essex and his principal officers retired with Brooke to Warwick Castle for a short repose; and thither were conducted also the principal royalist prisoners, together with their gallant and lamented general, Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, who died of his wounds within the walls, before he could be conveyed to an apartment. In January, 1643, Lord Brooke was appointed by the parliament general of the forces in the counties of Warwick and Stafford; and having subdued all opposition, marched with twelve thousand men against Lichfield. "Some gentlemen of that county," says Clarendon, "seized on the Close in Lichfield for the king; a place naturally strong, and defended with a moat and a very high and thick wall, which in the infancy of the war was thought a good fortification. To suppress this growing force, the Lord Brooke advanced, and without any resistance entered the city of Lichfield, which being unfortified was open to all comers. He was so far from apprehending any danger from the besieged, that himself lodged in a house within musquet shot of the Close, where, the very day he meant to assault it, sitting in his chamber, and the window open, he was from the wall of the Close, by a common soldier, shot with a musquet in the eye, of which he instantly died, without speaking a word." Milton, in an address to the parliament, bestows upon him the highest eulogium. Referring to a passage in Lord Brooke's "Discourse on Episcopacy," Milton characterises it as "so full of meekness, and breathing charity, that, next to the last testament of him who bequeathed love and peace to his disciples, I cannot call to mind where I have met with words more mild and peaceful." Lord Brooke had five sons by his lady, Catherine Russell. The first four having died without male issue, the title



descended to Fulke, the fifth son, a posthumous child, ancestor to the present Earl of Warwick.

*Note G, p. 40.*—GEORGE DIGBY, EARL OF BRISTOL.

An ample biography of this extraordinary person will be found in *Lodge's Memoirs*, vol. 8. It is too long, even for an abstract, in this place. To those, however, who have access to that work, it will well repay perusal. The life, indeed, of this modern Proteus might form the subject of a romance, as full of incredible adventures and strange eccentricities as any that ever was penned. One or two particulars we cannot resist quoting. Being impeached by the Commons of high treason he fled into Holland. His restless activity, however, induced him to return to England, and landing on the northern coast he contrived to reach York undiscovered, where he had an interview with Charles, the result of which was that he should return to Holland with confidential communications for the queen. He re-embarked in the vessel which had brought him, and which was presently after seized by a vessel belonging to the parliament, and brought into Hull. Disguised as a Frenchman, and speaking that language like a native, he lay in the hold pretending extreme sickness, and there found means to destroy his papers. On being landed he was confined alone, in consideration of his apparent weakness; and now, reflecting on the certainty of being eventually discovered, and on the dire vengeance which would inevitably follow, one of those sudden and romantic experiments so delightful to his nature occurred to him, and he practised it without delay. Sir John Hotham was at this time governor of Hull, into which town, but a few weeks before he had refused to admit the king. Hotham was a man of stern character, but Digby resolved to throw himself on his generosity. He told his guard, in broken English, that he had secrets of importance to communicate, and thus obtained an interview with the governor. The room was full of company, and Digby entertained them for some time with fabricated French news in the most natural manner imaginable, till Hotham chose to withdraw him to some distance, when, to use the words of Lord Clarendon, "Digby asked in English whether he knew him. The other, surprised, told him no: 'then,' said he, 'I shall try whether I know Sir John Hotham; and whether he be in truth the same man of honour I have always taken him to be;' and thereupon told him who he was; and that he hoped he was too much of a gentleman to deliver him up a sacrifice to their rage and fury who he well knew were his implacable enemies." The governor's feelings were not proof against such an appeal, and he concerted with Digby the means for his safety. In a subsequent engagement with the van of Essex's army, on Aldbourne Chase, near Hungerford, he was desperately hurt by the discharge of a pistol in his face, though miraculously missed by the ball. Being afterwards obliged to fly into France, he joined the French cavalry as a volunteer in the war of the Frondeurs. On that very day he accepted from an unknown officer of the enemy, one of those chivalrous challenges to single combat



so common in the warfare of that time, and was treacherously fired on by the troop to which his antagonist belonged, and was severely wounded. It occurred not only in the sight of both armies, but of the king and his court, and the praise and indignation of all were instantly excited in his favour. On the death of his father he succeeded to the earldom of Bristol, with a splendid income, New singularities, however, now took possession of him. He seemed to have become a miser; lived with scandalous meanness; and was even rapacious in his eagerness to possess himself of money. He had secretly given way at once to amorous dissipation, and to the practice of gaming, and indulged in both with the most unbounded extravagance. These excesses worked their own cure, and he soon reverted to ambition, and attempted unsuccessfully to supplant Cardinal Mazarin in the favour of the Queen Regent of France; speaking to her on the subject with so little reserve that she punished his arrogance by instant dismissal. After the Restoration he had a violent quarrel with Charles II., and attacked that prince in a private audience, with an intemperance of language perhaps never before nor since used by a subject to a sovereign. On receiving a denial of some request, he burst into the most bitter invectives; reproached the king with his idleness and debaucheries, and threatened that in twenty-four hours he would do "somewhat that should awaken the king out of his slumber, and make him look better to his own business." This menace was explained, a few days after, by his preferring a charge of high treason in the House of Peers against Lord Clarendon, for which he was obliged to fly and conceal himself for two years. He survived until 1677, when he died at Chelsea, leaving two sons and two daughters by his wife, Lady Anne Russell.

*Note H, p. 43.*—COURTIERS OF JAMES I.

There is in the Strafford papers, among Mr. Garrard's lively letters of court news, one to the Lord Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Strafford, then in Ireland, chiefly on the subject of this match. It exhibits some curious features of the manners of some of the highest of James's courtiers:—"The marriage," says Mr. Garrard, "will now shortly, at Easter, be solemnised. A most fine lady. My Lord of Bedford loves money a little too much, which, together with my Lord of Somerset's unexpected poverty, hath been the cause of this long treaty, not any diminution of the young parties' affection, who are all in a flame of love. \* \* \* My Lord of Somerset pretends that he lent my Lord Goring three thousand pounds, when he was in the tower, and being now in some straits about raising the portion, he hath sent to the Lord Goring and demanded it of him. He denies it lent, for he says it was given for real services then done him, which the Duke of Bucks could witness, were he living. This hath made a great noise, and much siding in the business. My lord chamberlain," (the eccentric and profligate Philip, Earl of Pembroke, husband to Anne Clifford,) "most fierce to carry it for Somerset, being one night at Salisbury House, fell into discourse about this three thousand pounds, saying

that it was due to my Lord of Somerset, and that Somerset would ask leave of the king to sue my Lord Goring, and that he would recover it, for somewhat that he knew. This he speaking with great vehemence, my Lord Powis, being by, spoke to moderate him, especially since it concerned my Lord Goring, who had always been his true and faithful friend. He replied he loved my Lord Goring well, but he loved a truth better. For one good service my Lord Goring had done him he had requited him with twenty. Powis said that he believed further that my Lord Goring was unable suddenly, if it were due, to pay such a sum; and asked him whether he would make himself a solicitor, to gather in Somerset's debts. That word 'solicitor' heated his lordship. He fell into high passion, and swore deeply, 'God damn me, I have seen a letter under my Lord Goring's hand, where he confesseth the debt, and it must be a great courtesy must deserve three thousand pounds. It was a gift for a prince to give, not for a subject. Let my Lord Goring shew wherein he did ever my Lord Somerset a courtesy worth three hundred pounds, and he shall quit his three thousand, for which he hath his letter to show.' My Lady Salisbury saying—'If he had such a letter to shew, let him shew it, and the business was at an end.' That 'If,' the lord chamberlain took worse from her than any thing spoken before—'Would she If, when he had sworn he had seen it?' Still she repeated 'If;' and she thought she might say If to the king, much more to him. She further told him that in all disputes he must have his own way, but he should not have it of her—He should not silence her in her own house—She would speak. So she rose up, and went out from him, and the company, into her chamber. But it must not rest so. My Lady Vaux, and my Lady Powis, undertook his lordship, and he being in an excellent good disposition, they brought him to a better temper, and to more reason, which effected, in they go to my Lady Salisbury's chamber, who was now the angrier of the two. There they made them friends: Powis made them kiss. *Sic finita est fabula.*"

*Note I, p. 61.—A DUKE HORSEWHIPPED.*

It was in this year (1748), that an incident occurred which has been variously described. The duke being at Lichfield races, a brutal assault was attempted upon him and others, on Whittington Heath, by some Jacobites to whom he was obnoxious from his zealous duty to the House of Hanover. One Tott, a dancing-master, seems to have been the leader in the affray. During the national ferment consequent on the suppression of the rebellion, the Staffordshire sportsmen who were of the Chevalier's party indulged in some ludicrous displays of favour towards his pretensions. "They appeared," says Smollett, "in the highland dress, and their zeal descending to a very extraordinary exhibition of practical ridicule, they hunted with hounds clothed in plaid, a fox dressed in red uniform!" This was "sporting extraordinary" with a vengeance. The parties principally concerned in this outrage, to the number of thirteen, were prosecuted by the Attorney-General, but the prosecution was dropped on their pleading guilty to the indict-

ment. In a note, in *Junius*, we find the following allusion to the affair :—" Mr. Heston Humphrey, a country attorney, horse-whipped the duke with equal justice, severity, and perseverance, on the course at Litchfield. Rigby and Lord Trentham were also cudgelled in a most exemplary manner. This gave rise to the following story : When the late king heard that Sir Edward Hawke had given the French a *drubbing*, his majesty, who had never received that kind of chastisement, was pleased to ask Lord Chesterfield the meaning of the word. 'Sir,' says Lord Chesterfield, 'the meaning of the word—But here comes the Duke of Bedford, who is better able to explain it to your majesty than I am.' "

*Note J, p. 65.*—THE KING AND THE DUKE.

The account given, in our edition of *Junius*, of this interview, is as follows :—" The ministry having endeavoured to exclude the dowager out of the regency bill, the Earl of Bute determined to dismiss them. Upon this the Duke of Bedford demanded an audience of the king ; reproached him in plain terms with his duplicity, baseness, falsehood, treachery, and hypocrisy ; repeatedly gave him the lie, and left him in convulsions."—Mr. Wiffen, however, characterises this as a " most gross misrepresentation."

*Note K, p. 69.*—PARENTAL FEELING.

Referring to this domestic misfortune, *Junius* says :—" I reverence the afflictions of a good man ; his sorrows are sacred. But how can we take part in the distresses of a man whom we can neither love nor esteem ; or feel for a calamity of which he himself is insensible ? Where was the father's heart, when he could look for, or find, an immediate consolation for the loss of an only son, in consultations and bargains for a place at court, and even in the misery of balloting at the India House ?" And again, in a note, it is added :—" Within a fortnight after Lord Tavistock's death the venerable Gertrude (the duchess) had a rout at Bedford-house. The good duke (who had only sixty thousand pounds a year) ordered an inventory to be taken of his son's wearing apparel, down to his slippers, sold them all, and put the money in his pocket. The amiable marchioness, shocked at such brutal, unfeeling avarice, gave the value of the clothes to the marquis's servant out of her own purse. That incomparable woman did not long survive her husband. When she died, the Duchess of Bedford treated her as the duke had treated his only son ; she ordered every gown and trinket to be sold, and pocketed the money. These are the monsters whom Sir William Draper comes forward to defend."

*Note L, p. 74.*—FRANCIS, FIFTH DUKE OF BEDFORD.

The cause of the duke's death is more particularly described in the following paragraph, by the late William Cobbett :—" Twenty-two years ago I, being out a shooting, jumped from a bank full ten feet high, into the field below, and thereby produced by the shock,



something which gave me very great pain, but of the nature of which I knew nothing. I came to London and applied to the late Mr. Chevalier, the surgeon, who directed me to get a truss, which I did. And here I gladly stop to acknowledge the only good I, and I believe any other human creature, ever received at the hands of old Daddy Burdett. Having told him what had brought me to town, 'Well,' said he, 'when you have put a truss on, never leave it off in the belief that you no longer want it.' A precept which he made effectual by relating to me the cause of the sudden and premature death of Francis, Duke of Bedford, who, thinking his rupture gone for ever, threw aside his truss, but in playing at fives, a sudden twist of his body brought on the complaint again, and sending for a surgeon to London, instead of calling in him of the village, a mortification took place, and he slept with his fathers in a few hours. Many times, and especially in hot weather, I have by this advice, and especially by the illustration of Daddy Burdett, been prevented from risking the fate of the Duke of Bedford."

*Note M, p. 76.*—WOBURN ABBEY.

The present mansion was built in the middle of the last century, on the site of a Cistercian abbey, which was originally founded in 1145, and granted to the Russell family, as mentioned in the text, in the reign of Edward VI. On the removal of some of the old buildings, several stone coffins were discovered; and a body, with the flesh not decomposed, although it was supposed to have lain there for between two and three centuries. The building is quadrangular, containing some very splendid apartments, and a rare collection of portraits, and situated in a fine park, ten miles in circumference, well stocked with deer and game.—The neighbouring town of Woburn, which contains a population of about 2000, consists of several broad and well-built streets, the houses in which are principally of a modern character, in consequence of two dreadful fires which destroyed the greater part of the dwellings in 1594 and 1724. The market-house, a convenient edifice, was built in 1787, by Francis, fifth Duke of Bedford, but was altered and greatly improved by the late duke. Some of the inhabitants are employed in straw-plaiting and lace-making. A sheep-shearing feast is held annually, when prizes are distributed to those who produce the finest fleeces. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, erected by Robert Hobbs, the last abbot of Woburn, is nearly covered with ivy; and detached from the building is a quadrangular tower, about fifty feet high. Within is a curious monument to Sir Francis Stanton and family, comprising twelve figures in the attitude of prayer. The pulpit is very ancient, supposed to be coeval with the abbey, and richly ornamented with niches, pillars, and tracery. Here there is also a freeschool, founded by Francis, fifth Duke of Bedford, in 1782, for an unlimited number of children of both sexes; the number of scholars is about 150; and the institution is supported by £50 given annually by the Duke of Bedford and other voluntary contributions. There are also twelve almshouses founded by John, Duke of Bedford, for twenty-four poor widows.



NOTES ON THE NOBILITY, No. I.,  
CONTAINING

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE  
HOUSE OF RUSSELL.

(Dedicated by special permission to the Right Honourable Lord  
John Russell.)

OPINIONS OF THE WORK.

"The Notes on the Nobility are most interesting, and evince great historic and genealogical knowledge."—*Letter to the Author, from J. Bernard Burke, Esq., author of "Burke's Peerage," "The Historic Lands of England," &c. &c.*

"Our contemporary, the *Liverpool Chronicle*, has recently contained a series of "Notes on the Nobility," written with so much taste, judgment, research, and impartiality, that the public have eagerly called for their republication in a less evanescent form. We have now before us the first number, embracing all that is historical or notable in the 'House of Russell.' Mr. Ross 'nothing extenuates,' nor has he 'set down aught in malice.' He tells the story of all the Russells with ease, eloquence, and brevity, but with sufficient fullness, and he has added a well-written memoir of Lord John Russell, to whom the work is, by permission, dedicated. We have seldom seen so much desirable family history compressed into so small a compass; and one portion of British history cannot, perhaps, be better taught than in the lives of our principal aristocracy,—proceeding from the conquest to the present day. Books of peerage are too brief, and too technical; here we have, in a readable form, the precise information we want."—*Liverpool Journal*.

"NOTES ON THE NOBILITY: NO. I, THE HOUSE OF RUSSELL.—This interesting little publication from the pen of Mr. Ross, proprietor of the *Liverpool Chronicle*, furnishes a desideratum in popular literature. The works of Burke, Lodge, and other eminent genealogists and dignitaries of the Herald's College are far too elaborate, technical, and expensive for ordinary circulation; but the series of *brochures* already executed or designed by Mr. Ross will, we are sure, be met with a ready and extensive welcome. The family histories of many of our nobility have, in addition to their historical and constitutional value, not unfrequently all the exciting history of a romance. Without descending too much into minutiae, the author of this little sketch has, nevertheless, so presented the reader with every circumstance of the private or public career of this ancient and honourable family, which is calculated to be generally interesting or instructive, as to impress forcibly the conviction upon the mind that he has handled his materials in a thoroughly skilful and masterly manner. We cordially congratulate Mr. Ross upon his *debut* in the literary world, and commend his entertaining and unpretending little production to the perusal of our readers."—*Nottingham Mercury*, (edited by P. J. Bailey, Esq., Author of "*Festus*.")

"SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF RUSSELL.—We owe an apology to the author of this little work, and to our readers as well, for not having sooner directed attention to it in

our columns. Mr. Ross's sketch of this illustrious house—illustrious for the talent, heroism, virtue and patriotism which have belonged to its members from the remote line of its first founder to the present day—displays great genealogical research and historical and biographical knowledge. It is written in an excellent and impartial spirit; and conveys to the reader, in the compass of a small volume, a story of interesting information, which could only be gleaned by him from the perusal of many bulky records, some of which are beyond the reach of the mass, whilst the compilation from them of the details sought for would involve an amount of time and labour which few have at their disposal. The plan of these "Notes on the Nobility," which we observe are intended to embrace the history of some of our most eminent families, is an excellent and a happy one; and we look forward with great interest to the continuation of the series. The notes appended to the Sketch of the House of Russell are very valuable. We may remark, *en passant*, that there are few subjects upon which Englishmen generally are more imperfectly informed than the history of our great ancestral houses, connected although some of them have been so intimately with the renown of our country, and with the institutions under which we live. Mr. Ross's unobtrusive, though most valuable labour, will go far to remove this reproach; and may even urge the enquirer to a further pursuit of a most interesting study."—*Liverpool Standard*.

"The 'Notes on the Nobility' reflect great credit on the industry of the compiler, the task of condensing and putting into a popular shape the immense mass of materials necessary to be employed in the prosecution of such a work, being one of no ordinary labour and difficulty. The 'History of the House of Russell' is one of the most interesting of the series; and we have no doubt that the expectation which has led to its being reprinted in its present form will be amply fulfilled. It is written in a fair and impartial spirit, and justly claims the attention of all Englishmen, as a record of historical facts concerning a family the leading member of which now occupies so prominent a position in the government of the country."—*Liverpool Courier*.

"HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF RUSSELL.—The author of the little book before us has supplied a desideratum, and may fairly be considered a benefactor to society. He has given vast thought, energy, and perseverance to the preparation of a series of brief sketches, in which the lives and marked characteristics of the chief members of our aristocracy are clearly depicted, and now publishes them at a price that will place them within the reach of those whose means are most moderate. At the same time there is a fulness, a completeness, and an accuracy in these productions which would fairly entitle them, with some slight expurgations, to be received into our principal schools as class-books. Mr. Ross has evinced a remarkable aptitude for the discharge of the task which he has imposed on himself, combining the clearest conception, with unwearied assiduity in research, and the greatest tact in dealing with the materials which his industry has educed. His 'Notes,' which we confidently predict will yet attain deserved celebrity, originally appeared in the *Liverpool Chronicle*, of which paper he is the proprietor, and his modesty, perhaps, would have deterred him from pressing them further upon the public attention; but their value having forced itself upon the convictions of his friends, by their advice he has consented to put them into this more enduring form. We cordially recommend the work to the encouragement of our friends, and shall be pleased if any thing which we have felt it our duty and privilege to say in its favour shall aid in securing for it an extensive reception."—*Liverpool Mail*.

